

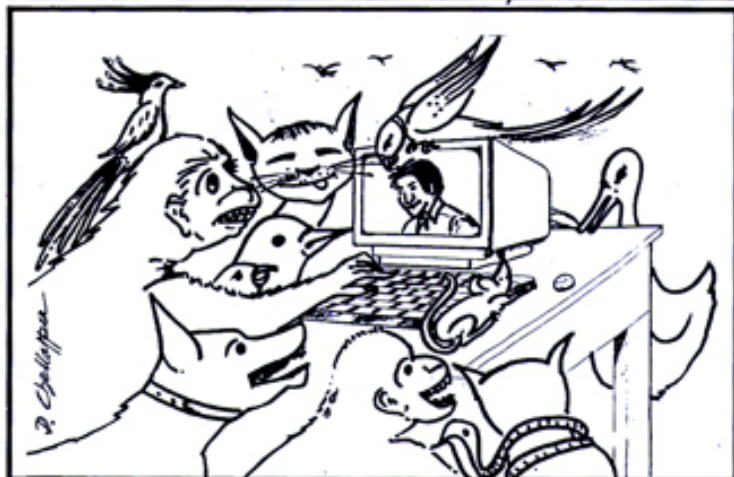
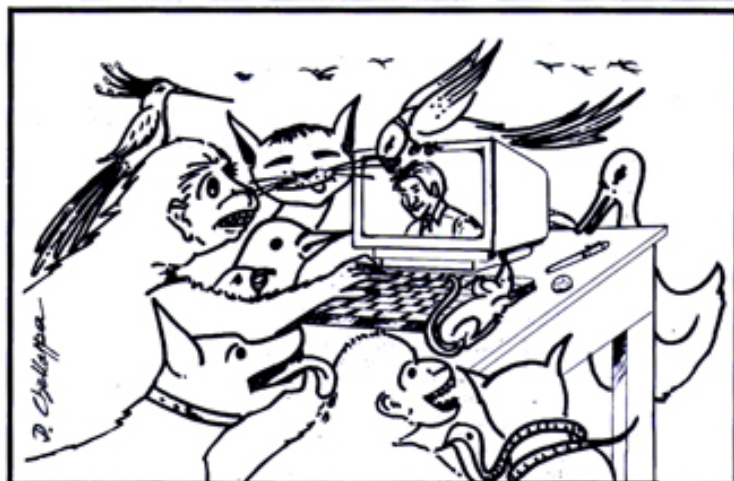
GOKULAM

February 2000 *The monthly magazine for children* Rs. 6/-



SPORTS DAY FUN

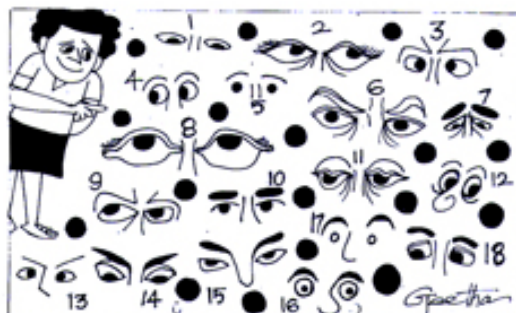
SPOT THE 7 DIFFERENCES



Answer: 1. Bird's beak. 2. Parrot's wing. 3. No. of birds in the sky. 4. Pen. 5. Dog's tongue. 6. Snake's tail. 7. Man's hair.

ANY ODD EYES?

Yes Sir! 3 and 13!



around the sun?

- What are celestial bodies?
- Why does Mercury take less time to complete one revolution around the sun?
- What are the two basic points of reference on the surface of earth?
- In which hemisphere does the Tropic of Cancer lie?
- On what days are a day and night equal all over the world?
- In which season is Christmas celebrated in Australia?

B. Mukandh, VII B, KV., Chennai

Answer: 1. A celestial body is an object having its own heat & light; 2. Because it is nearer to Northern hemisphere; 3. North Pole and South Pole; 4. In the sun; 5. 23rd Sept. and 21st March; 6. Summer season.



A foreign tourist once went to a village in Rajasthan. She was hungry. She approached a woman making Bajre Ki Roti. The tourist ate the Sabji and returned the roti saying, 'Here is your plate'.

Rajesh Jain, Chennai.



GEOGRAPHY PUZZLE

Dear children,

"Education is wealth never lost
anywhere.

It's value at any time beyond
compare."

"There is no wealth in this world
which is equal to that of education.

Unlike material wealth education once
acquired can never be lost," said poet Thiruvalluvar, more than two thousand
years ago. This observation holds good even today. It will continue to be true
during the next millennium and even there after.

Thiruvalluvar wrote 1330 couplets (two lines each). All
of them speak profound truths which can never be disputed
at any point of time.

'Thirukkural' as his poems are called have been
translated into many world languages, and accepted
internationally, for they are eternal truths. They are not
intended for any particular community or country. They
were written for mankind to study and follow in order to
lead a noble life with inner peace.

Recently a gigantic statue has been erected for this
international poet at Cape Comerin, the southern most tip
of mainland India. The statue has been installed by the
Tamilnadu Government on a solid rock, amidst the
confluence of the two seas and the Indian Ocean. It blends beautifully with the
Vivekananda Memorial, existing already on another rock nearby.

It appears as though both Vivekananda and Thiruvalluvar are looking at the
vast expanse that is India and asking its people not to just venerate them but to
follow the simple and rewarding principles laid down by them.

What is astonishing about Thirukkural is that the guidelines given in the poems
hold good not only for the ancient kings but also for the administrators in the
most modern and advanced countries. Whether M.B.A.s or engineers,
educationists or scientists, doctors or politicians, all can read and benefit from
the sage poet's couplets.

Next time when you go down south, do visit the Cape and see for yourself the
twin monuments in all their grandeur.

**Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.**

— William Canton



GOKULAM

Vol. XII, No. 8 FEBRUARY 2000



Love,

K. Rajendran,
Editor

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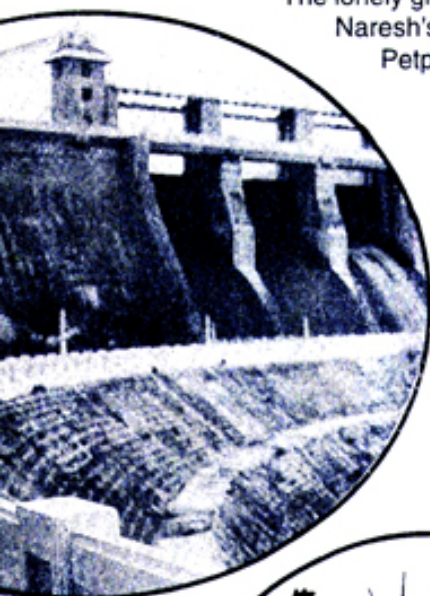
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Cover Illustration :
LALITHA

Kudos

I am a 63 year old grandfather of your subscriber. By chance, I happened to glance through the story "The Letter" in your October '99 issue. The writer deserves kudos and you the appreciation for publishing the right material for young minds. Hats off to you both.

**M. Salim,
Madurai.**

I have been reading Gokulam since August '99. I like it very much.

**S. Harika, Std.
IX A, Korba.**

Trichy floods

Sheets of water covered the city of Trichy. The city appeared like an archipelago. Trichy's main guard gate appeared like London, a city I have seen in picture postcards. All the filth and dirt was covered by sheets of water. Cars were floating in water.

Since I live in BHEL township, I missed all this. But isn't it an irony that just six months back Tamil Nadu was begging Karnataka for water.

Now when Karnataka is ready to give us water, Mettur dam is full and the Cauvery is overflowing.

That we pitched in to help the affected people is a different story altogether.

**R. Nivas, XII E,
BHEL, Trichy.**

LETTER BOX



I started reading the magazine in September '99. Why don't you add a column for the English language? You could also start a column for moral stories.

**K.P. Sivaram, Std. VII A,
S.S.K., Chennai.**

Salesman : Madam, try this. This will clean clothes superbly.

Lady : I have tried out many things and found that my husband is the best.



Gowri : What do you mean by saying to the whole class that I am an idiot!

Raji : Oh! I'm sorry. I never knew it had to be kept a secret.



Patient : Doctor, I have problem with breathing.

Doctor : Don't worry. I'll stop it soon.

S. Shankar, age 13,
PSSSS, Chennai.



GOKULAM 4

How to send?

I am a reader of your magazine. I write stories. How do I send in my contributions to the serial section?

R. Kokila, Trichy.

Dear Kokila,

You must send in the entire story. Mention your name, age or class, name of school and your house address. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your story if it is not selected. Ed.

I have been reading your magazine for the past two years. I like it a lot. I like the story, 'The village boy'. Please include more picture stories.

Deepika, B., age 11,
Bangalore.

The viewpoints in Jan 2000 issue were good. I agree fully with the views expressed in 'Do we follow Gandhi' and 'East vs West'.

R. Harshini, age 10,
St. Johns Eng. School,
Chennai.

MCC Publications of Bangalore has brought out four books to help children to learn to draw. Each book is priced Rs. 20/- The books are available at M.C.C. Publications, A-Wing, Fourth floor, Flat No. 3, Parsn Manere , No. 602, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 006.



Helen was a motherless girl. She did not know who her mother was. Neither did her father feel it necessary to tell her who her mother was. At the age of five Helen was sent off to a boarding school. Her father did not accompany her on this trip. Helen spent even the holidays at the school.

She learnt to help around the school. On the day she finished graduation, a letter arrived at the school. It said that Helen's father had passed away a week ago. Helen was called to the principal's room and given the news.

The principal was a kind woman. She suggested that Helen could stay on at the school until she found a job. It was not long before Helen found a job. Helen became a stenographer in a firm. She was still lonely and friendless. Even after years of working there, Helen remained friendless.

One day she came across a newspaper advertisement. A family in a far off country wanted a governess. Helen thought that this might help her meet new people and she would get to see new places. She applied for the job. Helen was appointed as the governess.

In her new home, Helen had to care for two young children. She enjoyed teaching them and taking care of them. Whenever she found time, she painted pictures and wrote stories.



Even at school, Helen had made it a habit to maintain a diary of everyday events. Now, Helen wrote her autobiography. It was titled *The Orphan*. The autobiography was a success. She was recognised by one and all.

She began writing stories. A few of them were even published in magazines and newspapers. Soon, Helen became well-known. She remained a spinster till death. She died at the age of 50, a very recognised writer, who remained a lonely person all her life.

THE ORPHAN

**M. Swetha and Ann Peter,
St. Joseph's Anglo Indian GHSS,
Trichy.**

*Dear Swetha and Ann Peter, pl. send in
your age details.*



Handed over

Macau was handed over to China after 442 years of Portuguese occupation on Dec. 19. Henceforth Macau will be a special autonomous region of China.

Plane hijacked

An Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu to New Delhi was hijacked. One passenger was killed. The other passengers were exchanged for the release of three dreaded Pakistani terrorists who were in jails in Kashmir. The eight-day long hijack drama ended on new year's eve.

New year welcomed

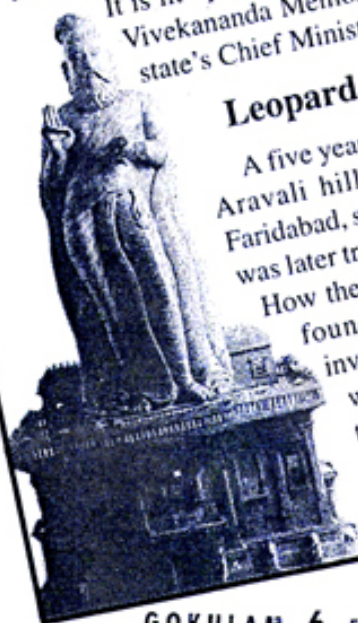
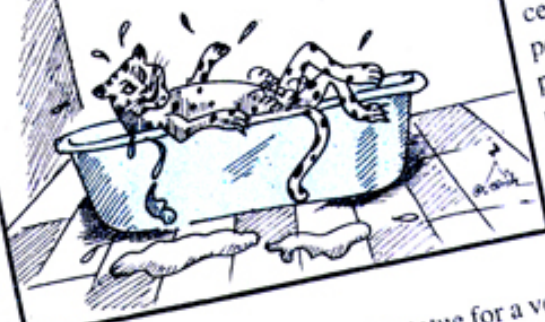
Prayers, parties and fireworks marked the arrival of the year 2000. Though the 20th century ends only on December 31, 2000, people all over the world were excited and prepared themselves to welcome the third millennium. The Y2K problem which frightened the entire world proved to be a damp squib.

Statue for Thiruvalluvar

A 133 ft. tall statue for a very ancient Tamil poet was inaugurated at Kanyakumari. The statue has been placed in the middle of the sea. It is lit up by arc lamps at night. It is situated close to the Vivekananda Memorial. The statue was unveiled by the state's Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi.

Leopard in a bathtub

A five year old leopard cub sauntered down the Aravali hills and took refuge in a house in Faridabad, scaring the inmates. The leopard cub was later tranquilised and sent to the Delhi zoo. How the animal, a rare sight even in a zoo, found its way into the city is being investigated. The leopard was captured when it rested in a bathtub in one of the houses.



NEWSBITS

Come sports day, it is time to prove one's physical abilities. Since sports day is an annual event unlike class tests and exams one does not often concentrate on practising one's favourite sport until the day has already arrived.

Things are not made easy because the PT hour comes perhaps twice a week. Then too, often it is hot outside or the monsoon has made the playground slushy. So, many a PT hour is spent inside the classroom.

If there is a class test on the day then most students would prefer to prepare for the test and 'sacrifice' the PT hour. After all, it is marks that will see one through to the next class.

All said and done, games always take the back seat. Keeping fit is rarely the prime consideration. This is why when it becomes compul-



Why do we need SPORTS DAY?

sory to participate in sports day events many of us are worried and ill-prepared. As children, students of the lower classes are asked to



participate in strange races — lemon and spoon, sack race, frog

springboard for talented youngsters.

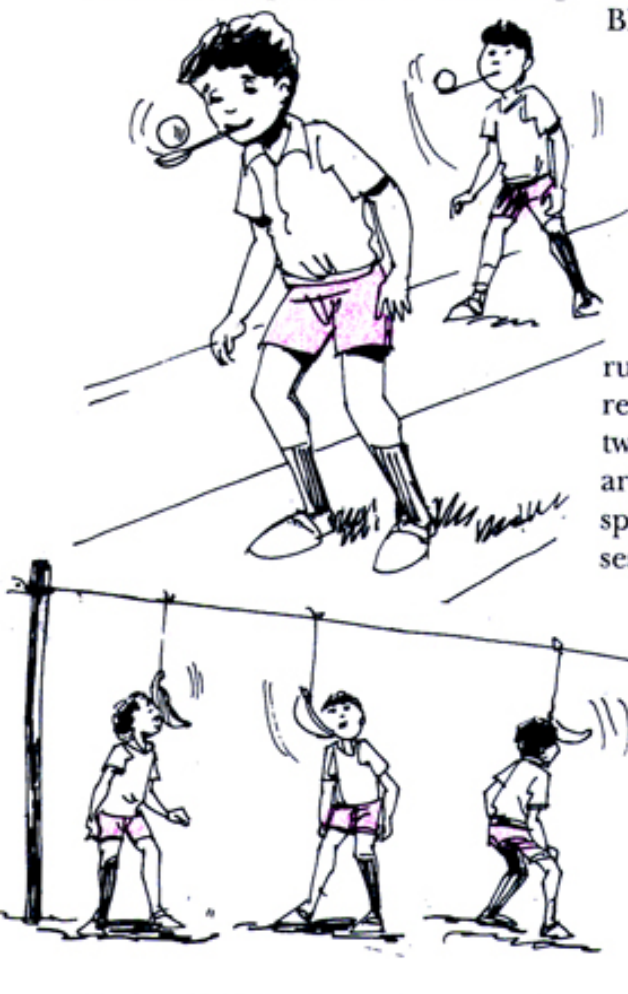
How does one prepare for the BIG EVENT? Practice. It would be sensible to begin practising the sport that has captured your imagination as early as possible.

Most sports place much emphasis on developing the physique. This the sportsmen do by either jogging or running. The body tones up and is ready for hard work. After about two rounds of jogging the muscles are well attuned to the rigours that sport requires. This is why a regular session of exercises helps.

In India the emphasis on sports is far less than the emphasis on studies. A sportsman's future is limited to perhaps the age of 30 whereas he can hold a good job until sixty. It is because of this consideration that most students pay little attention to sports.

Things have changed over the years. Today, sports are an international event requiring excellent physical fitness and mental acumen. To achieve success a sportsman has to put in a lot of effort into the game of his choice. Years of practice and total dedication can bring laurels.

School sports day events often pave the way for aspiring and talented sportsmen.



race and three-legged race. It appears as if the child is being unduly taxed. But that is not so. In fact, such amusing races prepare the student for the competitive years to come. When the student is asked to participate in the event, the stress is not on winning but on participation.

Sports help to develop our mind just as tests develop our memory. Sports days at school form a

Dams built across rivers act as reservoirs. Water from the river is held in check. The release of water is regulated. India too has a large number of dams. Yet, a dam over the river Narmada is being strongly opposed today. The reason being given is that the dam will displace people who live in these areas.

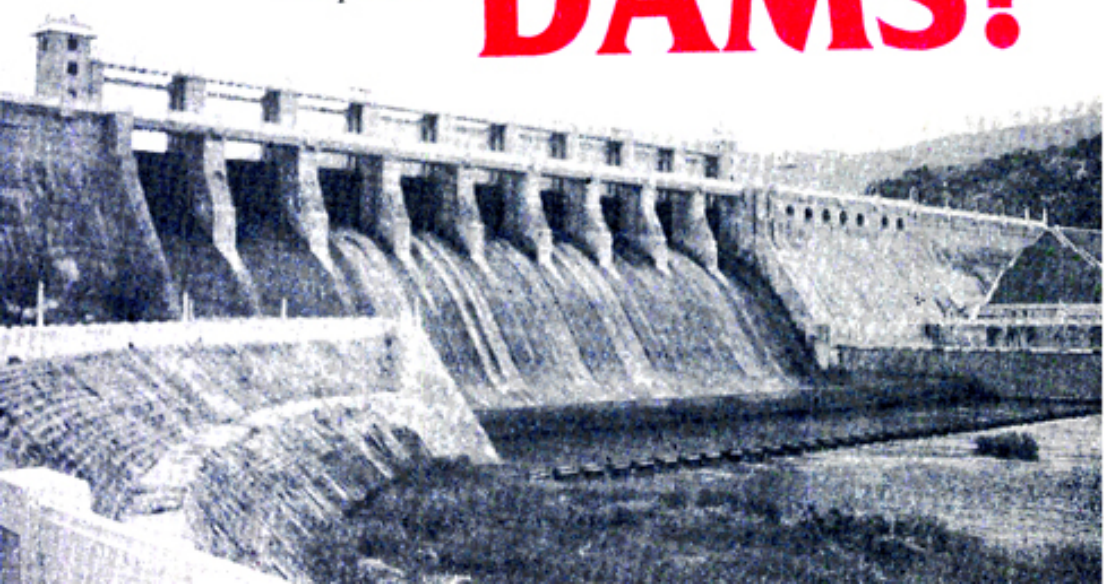
Quite a number of dams are now being considered unnecessary in the US and they are being dispensed with. In China, a dam is being planned across the Yangtse, the river of sorrow.

Yangtse changes course often. This has created many hardships for people living on the banks of this river. Over the past few years, the Chinese have designed a dam. This is considered an engineering marvel. It will be a huge man-made structure which will be visible from space when completed.

There are sections of people who are opposing the construction of this dam. On the banks in some places are villages that are four hundred years old. The residents of these villages have not moved out in all these centuries. If a dam were built then their villages would be submerged and their houses would be gone. They will have to resettle and begin their life anew.

The dam across Yangtse will take several years to complete. Yet, even before its construction, people are raising their voice against it. Along the route

DO WE NEED DAMS?



DID YOU KNOW?

- The world's smallest theatre, Pícolo, is in Hamberg, Germany. Only 30 people can sit in this theatre at a time.

- Polo is the oldest game in the world.



- Karnimata is a temple in Rajasthan



where rats are fed and protected.

- The Amazon-Orinoco-rainforest is the largest jungle in the world.

- The United States library of Congress, Washington DC, is the largest library in the world.

Jayashree, age 16, Bangalore.

of the river is an ancient archaeological site. It is 100 ft below the reservoir level. Archaeologists are removing remains from this ancient site. They fear that most of the relics cannot be removed and will be submerged once the dam is constructed.

Large dams can also create earthquakes. The pressure of the dammed up water may weaken the mountainscape and the earth's crust thus hastening earthquakes. Hundreds of villagers will have to move out of their homes and find new jobs and places to live in.

Despite all this, the Chinese feel that a dam across the Yangtse is a must.

The situation is much the same in India too. Here's what we want you to do.

Do you think we need dams?

Support your answer with arguments and counter-arguments. Send in your write-up to us by **Feb. 29, 2000**. The best five entries will be published. There are prizes too.

Address your entries to *The Editor, Gokulam (English), 47, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 97.*

The contest is open to all children between 10 and 16. The write-up should not exceed 300 words.

He stood at the Goripalayam bus stop every day from morning till night. He had a terrible face. His left eye was placed a little lower than his right, and his teeth stood out in wild disarray. His untidy hair rose from his furrowed forehead and cascaded like a lion's mane. He wore a rumpled shirt with several holes in it, and a was shabby lungi. He was an unsightly but well-known figure in that area — the ghastly man of Goripalayam.

People shuddered when they saw his face. When he came near them they quickly dropped some money in the tin can he held out, and moved out of his way.

"More" he would growl. "Give me more." And the people waiting there for the buses would part with more money in panic.

Little children screamed in fright when they saw him. School children avoided looking at him directly. They would fearfully dart side glances at him, only to find him doing the same. They would move off hurriedly on trembling legs. He would give a toothy grin and the tiny tots would scream again.

"The Corporation should remove him from here" some older people would say.

"Someone should give a petition about him to the Police Commissioner" said a retired

professor waiting for a bus to go to the Provident Fund Office.

The ghastly man approached him and shook his tin can at him. The professor moved off in a rush.

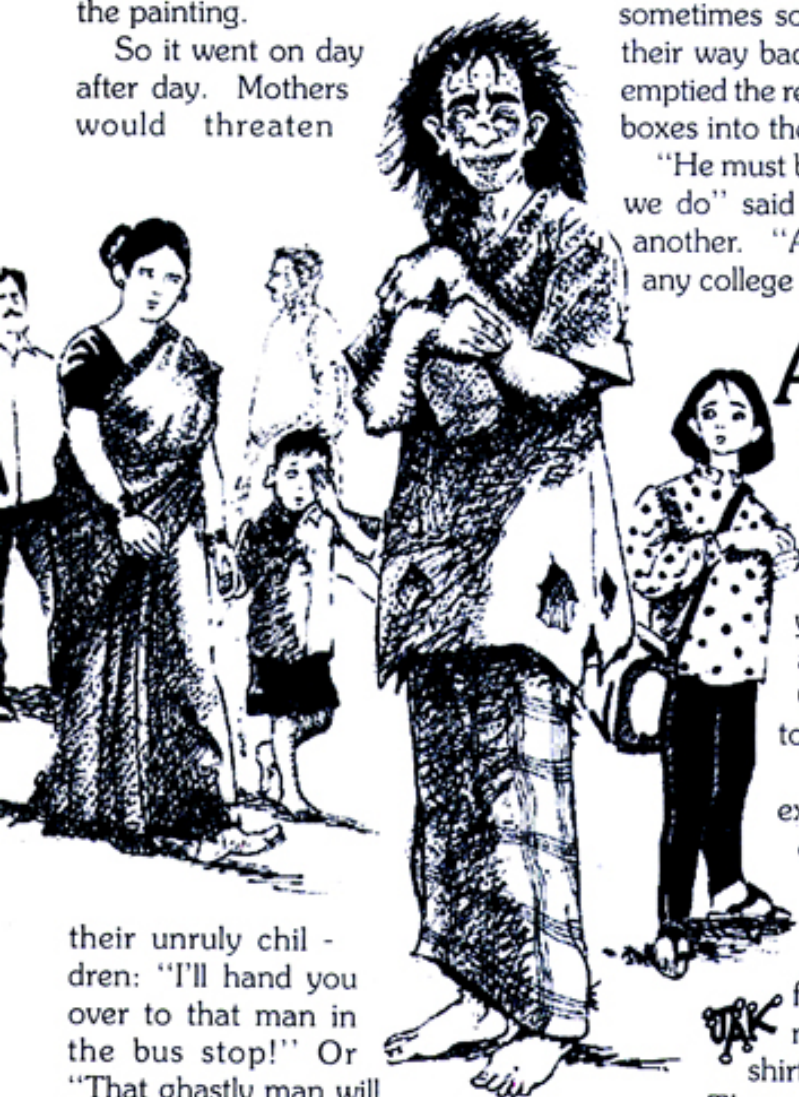
"What a face!" said a local artist, contemplating the mangled features

THE GHASTLY MAN OF GORIPALAYAM



of the ghastly man. "I wish I could paint his portrait." The ugly man then turned his face towards the artist as if posing for his portrait and gave a wide smile which made the artist wilt like wet paint. The artist set off at great speed, presumably to start the painting.

So it went on day after day. Mothers would threaten



their unruly children: "I'll hand you over to that man in the bus stop!" Or "That ghastly man will come and get you!" That was enough to quieten the naughtiest child.

Students from the nearby colleges

seemed to have a lot of pity for him. "What a tragedy it is to have a face like that!" said a male student.

"No romance for the poor man."

Some girls from another college also seemed to feel the same way. They gave him a lot of money, and sometimes some sweets too. On their way back from college, they emptied the remnants of their lunch boxes into the ugly man's tin can.

"He must be earning more than we do" said a school teacher to another. "And that too without any college degree."

All the other beggars of the area moved off elsewhere, since the ghastly man seemed to monopolise all the charity. Days and years passed. All in all, the ghastly man of Goripalayam seemed to be doing quite well.

Then one day an expensive car screeched to a stop near him.

A man in a black shirt and cream coat stepped out,

followed by a stocky man in a colourful shirt.

They approached the ghastly man and peered into his face intently. The ghastly man shook his tin can, but the men ignored it.

"That is not your real face" said

the man in the cream coat. "It's a great make-up job!"

The ghastly man backed away. But the two men kept close to him. "You saw that, Hari?" said the man in the cream coat to the one in the colourful shirt. "It is like 'Boris Karloff's make-up in 'Frankenstein'."

"Yeah, Mr. Sharma" said Hari. "It is better than the make-up used by the Shamsey brothers in their horror films."

"Look how he has managed to lower one eye! And note the coarsening of the skin!"

"The hair is obviously a wig" said Hari. "And the teeth are false of course."

The ghastly man retreated in confusion, but Sharma and Hari went after him. "Wait man, we want to talk to you," said Sharma.

vegetable sellers, and sat in their midst. Sharma and Hari went after him and sat down too.

The ghastly man put his hand before his face trying to cover it. Hari pulled his hand away. "What are you hiding?" said Sharma. "This is one of the greatest make-up jobs ever, and you should be proud of it. So don't hide it."

Hari pointed to Sharma and said: "This is Mr. Ramakishan Sharma, the Mumbai film producer. Not many people would get the chance of getting so close to him."

Sharma and his assistant, Hari, were returning from Rameswaram, and decided to break journey and worship at the Meenakshi temple. Actually they were on their way to the temple from their hotel when they

The ghastly man hurriedly took refuge among a group of

* Boris Karloff : Hollywood actor whose horror make-up was a landmark in the history of Hollywood. The 1931 film classic, *Frankenstein*, was based on the novel of Mary Shelley, the wife of the famous English poet, Percy B. Shelley.





had seen the remarkably ugly man, and had stopped.

By now a huge crowd had gathered round the main players of this drama. The women selling vegetables had sensed they were in the midst of an event of some consequence, and avidly watched the action unfold.

"Look, Hari" said Sharma. "The eye make-up is like 'Laughton's in the Notre Dame film. I have never seen anything like this in India."

"Listen, you are on the threshold of a great career," said Hari. "What is your name?"

The ghastly man continued to hide his face behind his hand, and

* Laughton: Charles Laughton, the British actor who played Quasimodo, the hunchback in the film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939), based on the novel of the celebrated French writer, Victor Hugo.

maintained a stony silence.

The crowd started muttering darkly. "He has fooled us all these days" said a shop-keeper. "He has won our sympathy on false pretences."

"What a waste of sympathy" said a college student.

"Tell the gentleman your name, or we will thrash you right here" said an auto driver. The crowd moved menacingly towards him.

"Don't hit me" the made-up man said. "My name is Narasimhan. I took to this way of life because of extreme poverty. Please don't ruin my life."

"Who is going to ruin your life" said Sharma. "I am offering you a

new life where you can roll in money."

"When Mr. Sharma makes an offer, it is bound to be good" said Hari.

"We are making a series of horror films in Hindi to be dubbed in all other Indian languages" said Sharma.

"All films nowadays are horror films" said a college student.

"Or at least horrible films" said another.

"We want you to be our make-up director. You seem to be an expert in this field."

"You can also play a few roles as the ghost, or the warewolf or goblin or whatever."

The ghastly man looked eagerly at the Mumbai duo.

"First take off the make-up" said a shop-keeper. "We want to see what you really look like."

Someone pulled off the wig to expose a small, crew-cut head. Someone else mussed up the face. It was a very ordinary face now.

"What a come-down" someone commented.

Narasimhan is now a highly paid make-up expert in Mumbai. He is also a star in horror movies.

The children of Goripalayam scream no more in fright. Nor do the school girls tremble in fear. The ghastly man of Goripalayam is now terrorising audiences in theatres across the country.

JANAKAN

OMAN'S WONDER CITY

Muscat is a wonder

Clean streets with trees on their border.

In the arid desert of Arabia

Lies the oil treasure of Asia.

Roads are wide and trees seen

Convert the desert a rich green.

Calm are the beaches at

Quantab

And the oasis at Nakkal.

Of all the buildings alluring our heart

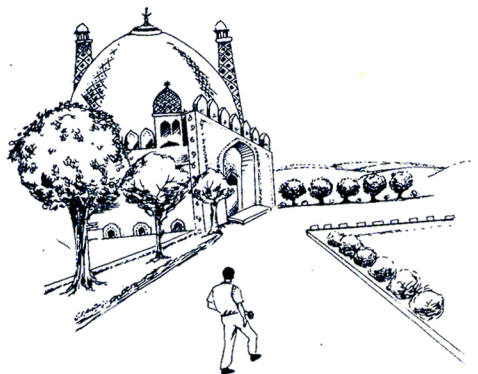
The Sultan's palace stands apart,
Beautiful, clean and calm

As we capture with a camera

in our palm!

S. Harish Murali, Std. VI G,

P.S.B.B.S.S.S, Chennai.



—Harish



* Computers can store and retrieve information.

among computers. Complete movies could be transferred to compact discs!

Computers simplify difficult and time-consuming tasks to an extraordinary degree. They store large amounts of information. They help people understand things better by allowing them to make

models and test their theories. They are able to solve

* Photographs can be printed in a few minutes



problems amazingly quickly. The solutions obtained show how certain things work, behave and happen.

This is the Third Prize winning entry in the Millennium contest.

The computer would have been just a calculating machine, had not many inventors combined their ideas and devices. Computers can handle information with incredible speed, solve complicated arithmetic problems in seconds and do an enormous variety of other jobs.

The computer was greatly improved in the 1960s. Integrated circuits, built in transistors and other electronic parts, changed the face of the computer. Jack Kilby, an engineer and Robert Noyce, a physicist, patented the first integrated circuit in 1959. The microprocessors were developed in 1971. Later, improved microprocessors and integrated circuits were developed. These could store tremendous amounts of information.

This led to the reduction in the size of the computer. Floppies and compact discs were developed to transfer tremendous amounts of information

An engineer uses a computer to predict how well an aeroplane will fly or how well a machine would work. Only the necessary information is fed into the computer - like the weight of the machine, its size etc. The computer equates the data of the particular machine and gives the result.

Today computers are used by astronomers to develop theories about how galaxies are formed. Computers can make long-range predictions on economy and people use them to create budgets, work out their taxes and calculate the value of their investments.

Databases :

People use computers to store unbelievably large amounts of information. These information centres are called databases. A country's complete census may be contained in a single database. The computer can very quickly search these databases to find a given piece of specific information.

The information can also be easily changed if necessary. The store and

retrieve aspect of the computers makes them valuable in a wide range of professions. Scientists store the results of experiments conducted by them.

Libraries store information about their collection. Hospitals maintain records of their patients. Governments store election returns and census information. Businesses rely on databases to store information about their employees, customers and products. Computers help markets keep track of the current trend of currencies around the world.

Banks use them to maintain records of their accounts and credit card information. An automatic teller machine functions only with the help of a computer terminal.

Computers can check spelling errors. They help people to write articles, type words, books, letters, reports and all kinds of other documents. A

A CHANGE IN LIFESTYLE





* Computer technology has reached Indian films too.

computer can even give us printed articles if a printer is attached to the computer. The computer is used widely in publishing of books, magazines and newspapers.

Computers help in making photograph-like pictures. They are used extensively in engineering and architecture. Fashion designers use them to try out their new designs. Forensic and police departments store vast amounts of information on finger-prints, blood samples of victims and criminals.

By using an X-ray data the computer can construct an image of a body part on the computer screen. Complicated radar systems use computers to produce detailed images for military purposes.

Graphics and Cinema

Computers are widely used in the

* Computer-animated cartoon strips are a common feature today



field of entertainment. Video games can be played on the TV screen using a keyboard, mouse or a joystick. Three dimensional images create a feeling of reality for the viewer. Doctors use the concept of virtual reality to simulate tense operation-theatre atmosphere.

Computers are used in making frequent adjustments in complex machines, to help them run efficiently. Computers embedded in a car control the mixture of fuel and air entering the engine.

Computers supply the latest information to banks, newspapers and business institutions. Today the internet and LAN (local area network) and other such programmes help people earn a living by sending information to various sites on the computer.

People can converse with each other, and carry out shopping on the internet. Meteorologists rely on computed images to forecast weather.

In the years to come, computers may carry out our everyday chore and reduce our load of work. Even now, many computer-controlled robots are being developed to perform many difficult tasks.

Robots controlled by computers are being sent to other planets to search for more information about these planets. With the computer at our disposal, the future of mankind is fantastic.

**P.R. Arun, age 15,
Christ Nagar School,
Trivandurm.**



MAGIC OF THE BAND

Shambu was a shoe shine boy who earned a living by polishing shoes. He lost his parents at an early age. He, along with half a dozen other boys eked out a living on one of the busy roads of the town. None of the boys fought among themselves. As a result, each of them made a sizeable amount every week.

One day a baraat approached the road where the boys sat. Bandmen and men with lamps on their shoulders lead the way. Men in silks and women adorned in

jewels walked behind. "Today we'll have a bounty," Shambu observed.

"Yes, so many men and so many shoes to shine," said Raju. One by one the men danced into the road. Many had their shoes polished by the shoe-shine boys. The boys earned quite an amount by the time the procession wound its way out of the street.

Just as the procession entered the next street, there was commotion.

One woman was wailing and beating her chest. "Oh, my gold necklace, I don't know who has stolen it. Just a minute ago it was there." Her husband said, "Let us go back and search on the road. Let the bandmen move."

"Oh," wailed the woman. "The necklace is supposed to adorn the bride's neck. I thought I would wear it for a while before I returned it to her."

"Like a fool you have been careless," said the husband very angrily. Soon, a group of men stalled the bandmen and returned to the street where the shoe shine boys were seated. They searched

MY PET



He stretches by my cot at dawn,
He cries for food and my sleep is gone.
While mother cleans the kitchen, he sits on a stool,
He basks in the sun when I leave for school.
A tiny bundle of fur on the road alone
I brought him home so he won't have to moan.
He grew up, sleek and beautiful,
And earned our love plentiful.
Any time he loves fish,
But doesn't always get his favourite dish.
He rummages in the dustbin,
And stays out for committing that sin.
At night he loves to prowl
When rats and mice call him foul!
Who he is, you don't have to ponder,
It's my pet cat Kaloo, a real wonder!

Namratha P. Kamath, Std. VIII A, KV, Kudremukh.

the road. Then their eyes fell on the shoe shine boys. They began beating and abusing one of the shoe shine boys. "Tell us which one of you stole the necklace. Otherwise we shall beat all of you black and blue."

"Saab, we haven't seen any necklace on the road," wailed the youngest shoe shine boy when he received a hard blow.

Shambu said, "Sir, please spare them. I know them very well. We grew up together."

"Then, you must be the leader of this pack of thieves," the man pounced on Shambu.

Shambu did not wince. Instead he said, "Sir, come with me. I know where the necklace is."

The men followed as Shambu lead them to the band. He asked a man from the procession to search one of the drummers of the band. When the man put his finger into the pocket of the drummer out came the necklace.

"But how did you know?" asked the man from the marriage party.

"Sir, I saw the necklace slip off the woman's neck. The bandman knelt and picked it up. I saw him slip it into his coat pocket."

The men were ashamed of their behaviour. They invited the shoe shine boys for the marriage feast. Each shoe shine boy was rewarded Rs. 200 for his honesty.

R. Chitra, Dehradun.

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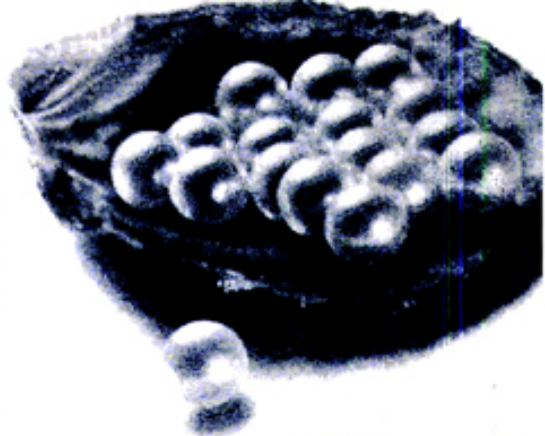
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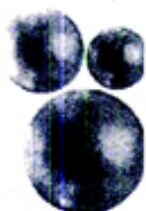
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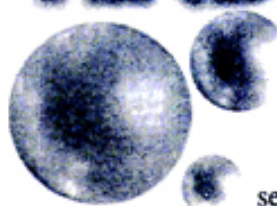
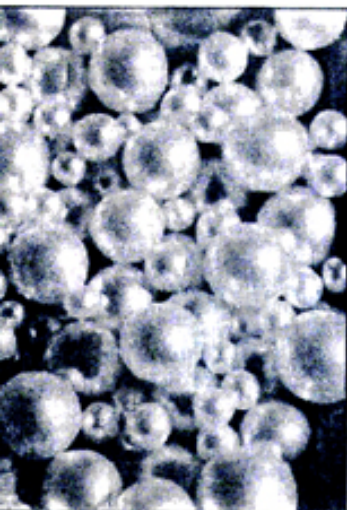


exhibits a brilliantly iridescent* substance. This substance, nacre is much sought after. It is used in making buttons, artifacts and combs.

Oysters move by using their feet. Near the foot is a gland which secretes a bunch of fibres. The fibres



OYSTERS AND PEARLS



called bysuss, help the oyster to attach itself to the rocks on the seabed.

Oysters are found on rocky seabeds. Julius Caesar invaded Britain in search of pearls. The only article of value that Caesar is said to have carried home is a breastplate studded with pearls. He dedicated it to the Temple of Victory in Rome.

Oyster is a kind of shellfish. It is used as food, often eaten uncooked. Pearl mussels are true pearl oysters. Common oysters line their shells with mother-of-pearl or nacre. But pearl oysters form globular pearls that lie loosely within the mantle.

When grit or foreign bodies get embedded in the space between the mantle and the shell of the oyster, the animal secretes a liquid. This liquid gets embedded on the foreign body and forms layers. As layers upon layers of nacre cover the foreign particle, it becomes less irritating for the oyster.

Over a period of time, the new layers harden into a spherical shape. This is called pearl — a natural or real pearl.

The part responsible for producing the pearl is called the mantle. The mantle

remains covered with a double flap of cellular tissue inside the shell. The normal function of the mantle is to secrete the material for formation of the outer shell of the oyster.

Sometimes, the inner part of the shell

* Colourful like the rainbow

India and the Gulf of Bahrain have been known for centuries as centres of pearl trade. Men between the ages of 15 and 30 would dive to the seabed and collect oysters. Sometimes, an entire catch of oysters may not yield even one pearl.

Even today Bahrain boasts of pure pearls along its coasts. Merchants of Bahrain are known to have sailed upto the shores of Sri Lanka in search of oysters.

Artificial pearls : In the early 20th century Japan found a cheap alternative to pearl. Oysters were collected from freshwater lakes and seas. A piece of glass or irritant was placed between the mantle and the shell and the oysters were then replaced in rocky seabeds. After a few years the oysters were harvested. These oysters produced pearls.

These pearls have a large market today. Pearl divers usually don a black outfit made of a thin fabric known as malmal. The fabric protects them from jelly fish. They also wear gloves to protect their fingers as they pluck out oysters stuck to the seabed.

A diver carries with him small pincers made of wood or animal horns, a shell-opener, a knife, a ripper to remove pearls from the shell and a small reed basket that hangs around his neck. He collects his catch in

the basket.

Pearl divers go to sea when the sea is rough. In Japan there are pearl culture farms. Women are often employed here.

The Nizam of Hyderabad is said to have had a large collection of pearls. It is said that even in the early 20th century, the Nizam possessed a large collection of pearls which he would spread on the terrace of his palace to dry. His collection covered the entire terrace of the palace.

Pearl is not a gem. Yet it is as popular and much sought after as gems. Cleopatra, the queen of Egypt is said to have crushed a pearl and drunk it to impress Antony.





The Kumar family had recently moved into a new locality. The Kumars had two sons and a daughter. Priya was the second child. Her two brothers had found boys of their age in the municipal playground. So, they would go off in the evenings to play cricket.

Priya was finding it difficult to find a friend of her age. Most girls in her class had been studying in the same school since they were toddlers. So, they had close friends. Even some of the relatively new students had forged good, lasting friendships. Priya was very unhappy.

It was over a month and she still could not find a playmate either at school or at home. One Sunday

evening, Priya's father called her. He handed her a box of sweets and asked her to deliver it at Mr. Shankar's house. He lived further down the street. Priya hesitated.

She did not know who they were. She did not want to go to a stranger's house. Her father would not hear of it. So, finally Priya made her way to Shankar uncle's house.

THE LONELY GIRL

Mr. Shankar welcomed her warmly and enquired about her school and studies. After about ten minutes, he called out to someone inside the house. A girl of Priya's age emerged from one of the rooms. Mr. Shankar introduced the girl as Reema. Reema studied in a different school but was in the same class as Priya.

Reema said she was planning to change over to the school Priya was in. This thrilled Priya no end. Soon, Priya and Reema were talking about each other's hobbies and classmates.

That night when Priya went to bed she did not feel upset. She had a new friend. A friend she knew she could play with, study with and have fun with.

**A.B. Huwayda, age 13,
Bangalore PS, Bangalore.**

THE VILLAGE

But Lekha, do you know, I have developed a liking for that boy. Not because he is the Minister's son. He is a lovable boy in his own merit. I told him more out of respect for the Minister, that if he wanted anything in the hospital, I could arrange for it. I thought he would ask for a video deck or a TV or a video game. Do you know what he asked for?

"He said, 'Uncle please arrange for a good English teacher for me. I want to talk fluently in English like the others in my class. When I can't do that I feel inferior to the others. So please can you arrange for a good teacher?' I was moved, Lekha. I got hold of the best teacher in the city. And the classes begin next week in the hospital itself. Nowadays it is very rare to come across a boy like that. I love that boy."

BOY



HELP! HELP!

**Would you like to become
a detective and solve a
murder mystery?
See page **78**
for details.**

“.....”

“Ok darling, go to bed. It’s already very late. Good night.”

“Good night, Dad.”

Lekha was sobbing for most part of the night.

Four months later —

Poopandi was to return to school that day. Lekha who was sitting in the first row till then, now sat in the second row. She looked at Poopandi’s empty seat with respect.

Just a minute before the bell Poopandi entered the class.

The whole class cheered him as he entered. Poopandi was moved to tears. Everyone wanted to talk to him at once. But the English teacher walked into the class and the students returned to their seats.

The English teacher was also pleased to see Poopandi after a long time.

He was now wearing the school uniform and was looking very smart. There was a brightness in his eyes and he appeared confident.

The teacher affectionately welcomed him.

“Welcome back, Poopandi. Are you all right now? All of us are sorry about what happened to you. And we missed you very much all these days.”

Poopandi stood up gracefully and spoke in impeccable English.

“I’m fine, Ma’m. Thank you for your concern. Yes, I too missed all of you. It is nice to be with all of you again.”

As Poopandi spoke he looked around the class. The whole class



applauded Poopandi's flawless delivery. Lekha also joined in. She noticed a scar about the size of a one rupee coin. The scar caused by acid-burn.

The teacher too was impressed with Poopandi's language. She was asking him something. Poopandi was replying with considerable ease. Though the class was by now used to listening to flawless English from the teachers and students, Poopandi's command over the language and his choice of words to express himself impressed everyone in the class, and more so Lekha.

Finally the teacher asked the question which was on everyone's lips.

"Poopandi, how come, all of a sudden you speak such wonderful English? Who is responsible for this?"

There was pin-drop silence in the class for the whole of the next minute. The students waited for Poopandi's reply.

"All of this is possible thanks to my good friend Lekha. Had she not taught me to speak English from the very day I joined this school, I could not have dreamt of speaking English."

The teacher was stunned. She commanded the class —

"Class, will you please give a standing ovation to Lekha, the great teacher, who transformed Poopandi?"

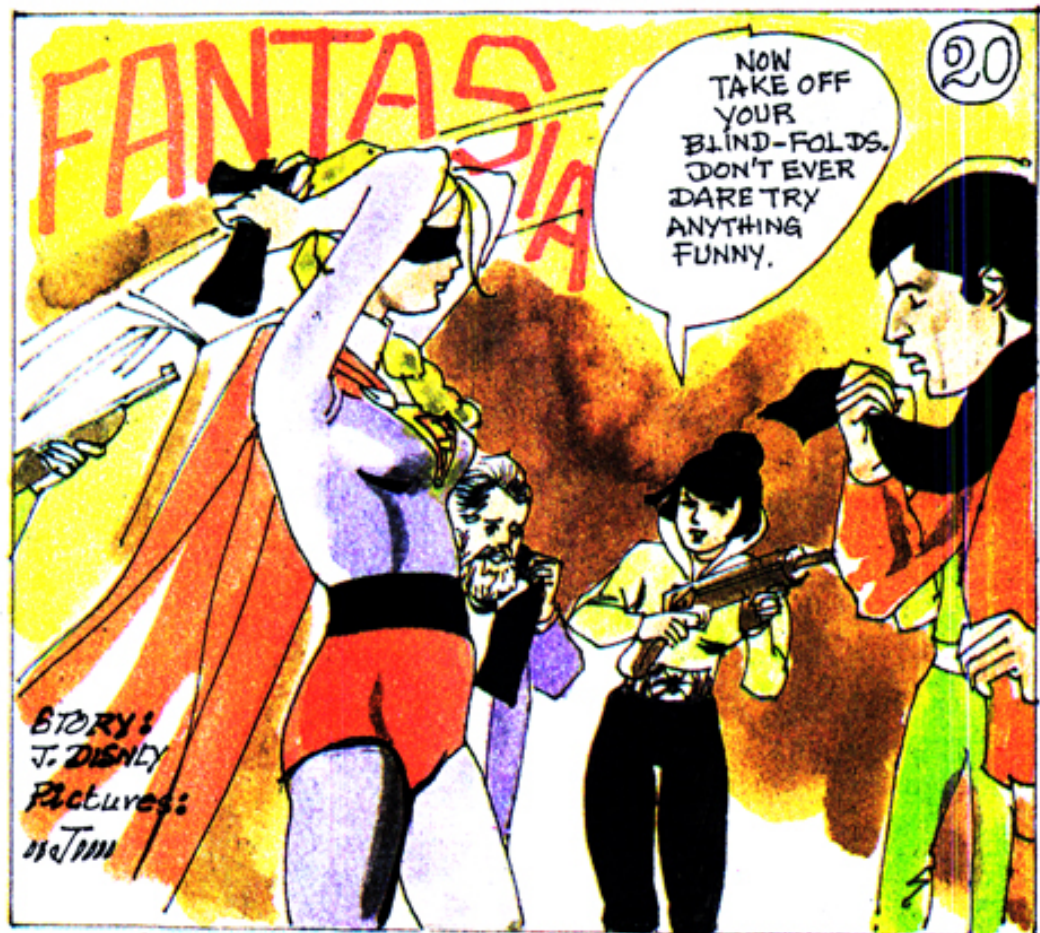
The entire class was on its feet. It looked as if the applause would never stop.

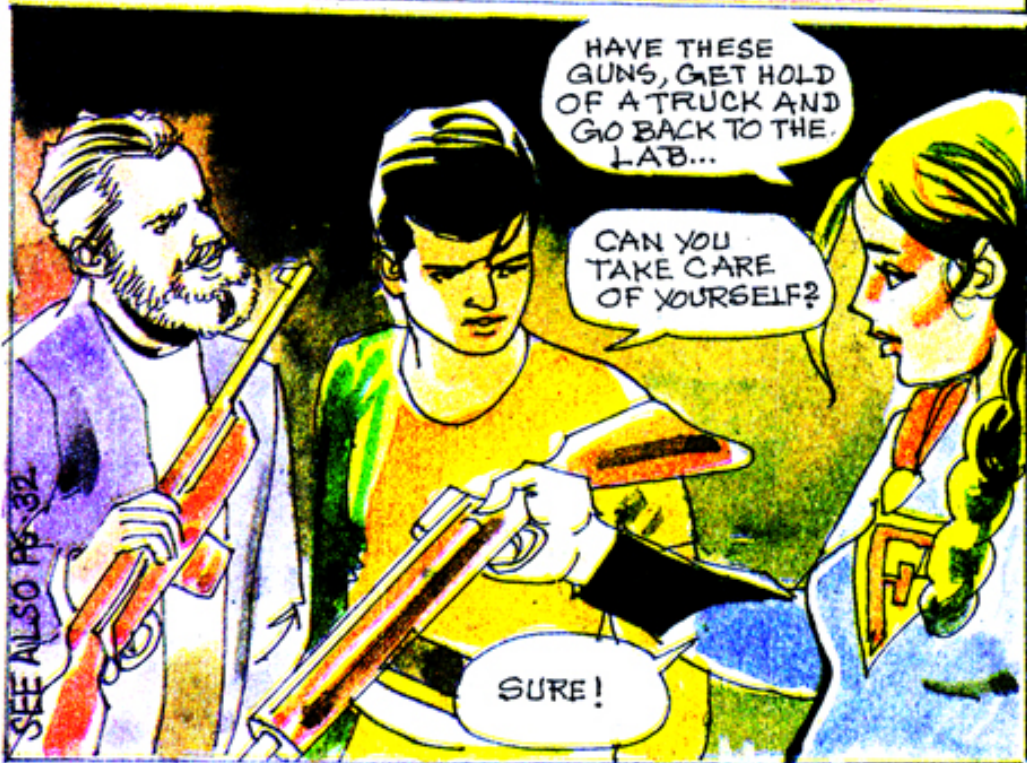
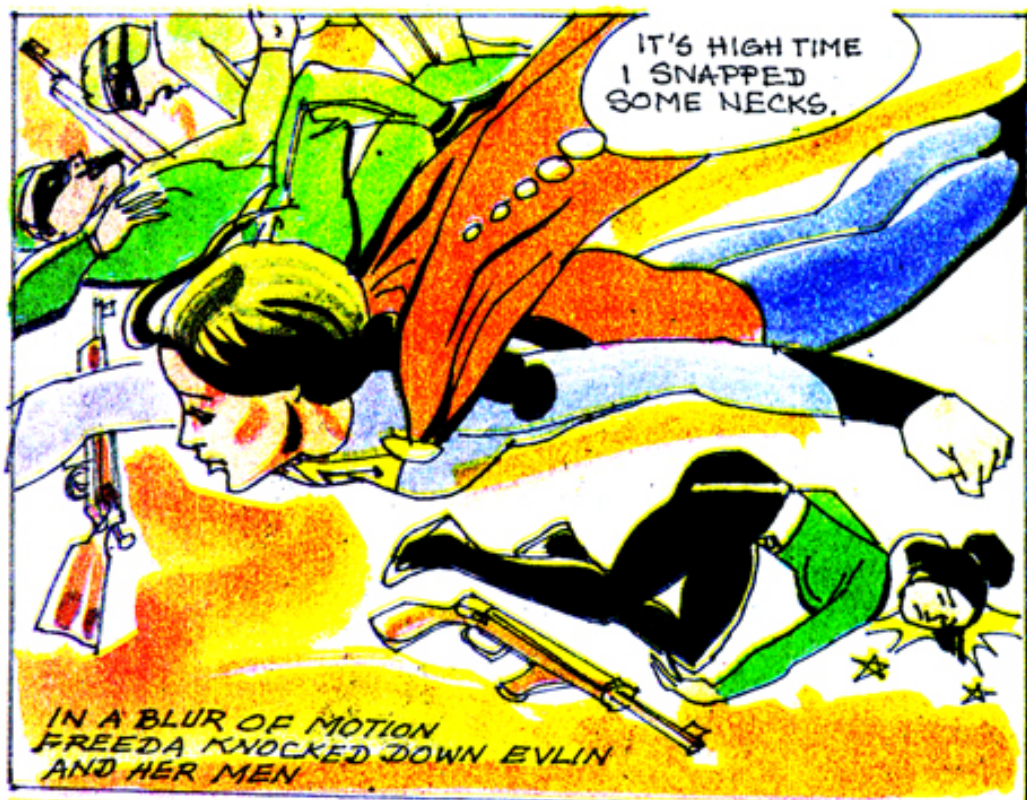


The sound of applause muffled the sobs that escaped from Lekha.

The end

R. Shreedharon, Madurai.





I heard someone creep stealthily into the room. My nostril tickled. I tried to overcome the sensation. I realised that my cousin had inserted a piece of thread into my nose. I sat up angrily. The jerk was too much for the old cot. One of its legs gave way. I was now on the floor.

I decided to go for a walk after breakfast to cool off. I was quite far from home when two dogs fell

in step with me. I am terrified of dogs. I willed myself not to run. Suddenly the dogs began barking. I took to my heels.

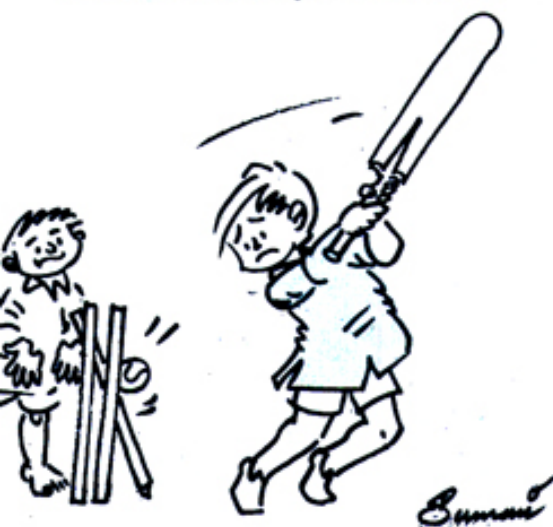
The dogs were closing in on me. I was becoming breathless. A farmer who noticed the dogs shoed them away. The fear that



A DAY OF

the dogs might still pursue me, made me run. I didn't even thank the farmer. I reached home, sweating and panting. I tried to cool myself under the fan. Just then the power supply was cut. I had to cool myself in the natural breeze.

That afternoon when my aunt wanted some items from the grocer's I offered to get her the items. The shop is a kilometre away. But I knew of a shortcut which would take me to the shop and back in just 15 minutes. I made my way through the bushes. Suddenly I heard a sound. To my



utter horror, I saw a torn piece of my new shirt stuck to the thorns of a tall bush. I returned home feeling sorry for myself and my aunt had to send a cousin to get the items.

By evening I had forgotten my misadventures of the morning. When my cousins suggested a game of cricket I was thrilled. I had boasted to them that I was an all-rounder. I was sent to

bat first when our team won the toss. I held the bat with enthusiasm. The first ball hit me on the stomach. I managed to hold myself straight. The second ball hit the leg stump and toppled it. I returned from the field without scoring a single run.

My spell of bowling was no better. I gave away four wides, two boundaries and missed an easy catch too!

When I returned home grandpa asked me to check the cauldron in the backyard.

Even today in some homes in Kerala, water is boiled in huge cauldrons.

They are placed on stone stoves.

I checked for the fire which seemed to have been put out. I inserted some logs. I didn't notice a coal fall off the stove. Unwittingly I picked up the coal and singed my fingers. Grandfather had to apply antiseptic to the wound. He then tucked me into bed. I recalled the day's events. It had been a day of misfortunes. I prayed that I should never encounter Mr. Misfortune again.

**A.Y. Shillo, Std. XI A,
KV 1, Kalpakkam**

WOES









UZZLE PAGE

PHYSICS QUIZ

1. Why does a whip make a crackling sound when snapped?
2. Why do bicycle wheels have spokes?
3. Why are rectangular vessels used to carry solids?
4. What will happen when an apple is released from an orbiting

space ship?

5. What is the difference between heat and temperature?
6. What is 'Black Magellanic Cloud'?
7. What is 'aurora'?
8. When a stone and leaf are dropped from the same height and at the same time, which will reach the ground first (in vacuum)?
9. How does blotting paper absorb ink?
10. What causes 'halo'?

S. Shankar Prasad, Std. IX B
KV, Kudremukh.



WHO'S FIRST?



Rahul and Priya have to catch a train to go to a friend's house. They agree to meet at the railway station at 6 o' clock. Both of them hate waiting, so each secretly decides to come at exactly 6 o' clock. Priya's watch is five minutes fast but she thinks it is

S Q P T K R E S P T N
T D S I C D C P T L I
E K N J A E N I L D S
F R K A R N A N I M V
F A A V L T R R Z I O
I J K I O R F T E P T
V A A S S A E N X L V
R J N A M J N H L T I
A I I F O A M I T Q E
J P P R Y J G Y Z E N
I T N L A I S P T I N

3
2
1
0
1
2
3

CLUES

1. The first recipient of 'Bharat Ratna' (Rajaji)
2. World cup football (1998) was won by (France)
3. The first Tamilian to receive the

"Dada Saheb Phalke award" was (Sivaji)

4. He scored the fastest century in One Day International Cricket matches (Afriidi)

5. She was given the Olympic order recently (Steffi)

6. The capital of Austria. (Vienna)

7. The name of the multi-barrel rocket which has been successfully tested by India in the year 1998 (Pinaka)

8. This country won the 1998 World Cup Hockey Championships (Netherlands)

9. He is India's Chief Election Commissioner now (Gill)

**R. Upendra, age 11,
Vivekananda Vidhyalaya,
Chennai**

R
I
D
D
L
E
S

1. Which is an unsolvable mystery?
2. On hearing what does our blood boil?
3. What takes six years to understand?

4. Which is the best metallic curry?
5. Which metal has ten tongues?
6. Which metal is bed-ridden?

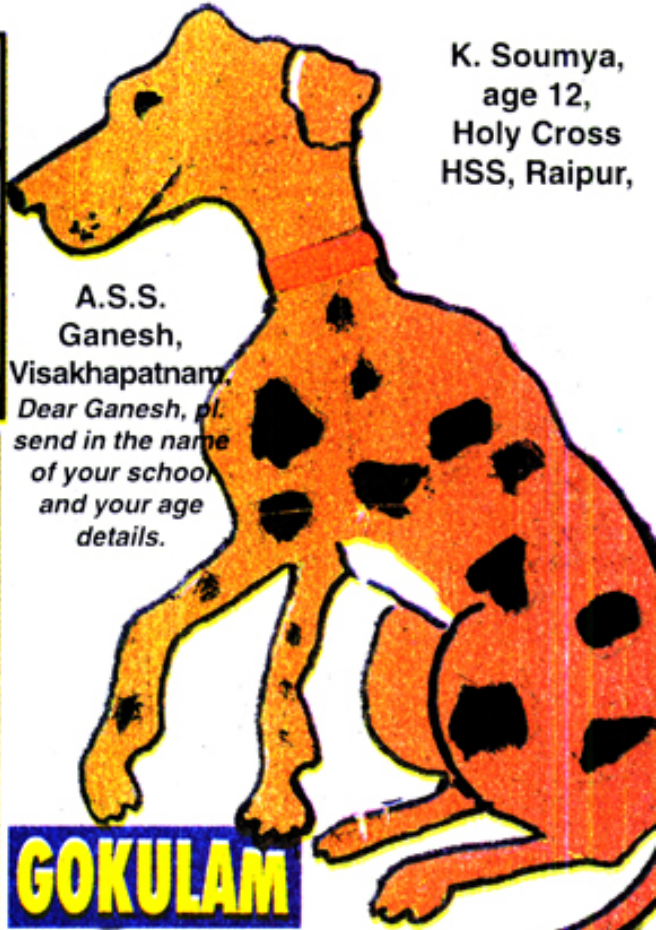
**J. Anil,
age 14,
Kerala School, New Delhi.**

10 minutes slow. Rahul's watch is ten minutes slow but he thinks it is five minutes fast. Which of the two is kept waiting at the railway station and for how long?

**C. Jyothi, Std.
XII, St. Joseph MHSS,
Hosur.**

**ANSWER
PAGE :43**

In January 2000 issue
The riddle 'notable' in III cover was
sent by Dolly of Raipur
History Wonder of puzzle page was
sent by
Sairam, Sanjeev and Prafulla,
age 13,
SMEHS, Dombivli.



K. Soumya,
age 12,
Holy Cross
HSS, Raipur,

A.S.S.
Ganesh,
Visakhapatnam,
Dear Ganesh, pl.
send in the name
of your school
and your age
details.

GOKULAM

ART GALLERY



R. Vivek,

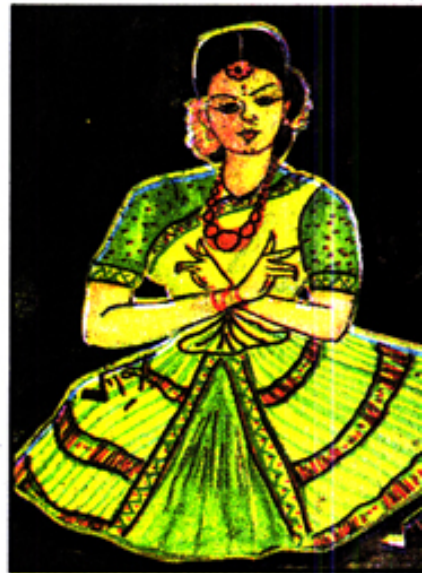
T.H.S. School, Kumbakonam

Dear Vivek, pl. send in your age or class
details.

Sandhya Sumathi Baskar,
I, IES Reclamation
Primary School, Mumbai.



M. Vijay Sundar, VIII A,
Robert MHSS, Chennai.





Jyoti Shekhar, VII,
DTEA SSS, New Delhi.



T. Shilpashree, VIII,
Girls SSSchool,
Port Blair.



B. Girija, VIII,
KV, DRDO, Bangalore.



Simanta Ranjan Pal,
IX, KHH School, Nadia.



*** G. Gomathi,
Bangalore.**

? What is diabetes? Is there a complete cure for diabetes?

! Diabetes is a condition where an excess of glucose which is nothing but sugar occurs in the blood. Though sugar is required to provide energy for the body, a surplus of it creates many problems. In a normal person the food is digested and converted into glucose. Then the glucose is carried by blood to all cells of the body. Here it is used as a fuel to produce energy by the action of insulin.

Insulin is a hormone secreted by the beta cells of the Islets of Langerhans in the pancreas. The pancreas is situated near the stomach. In fact, insulin acts as a key that opens the doors of the cells so that sugar can enter the cells for utilisation.

But a diabetic person has a low level or no insulin in his body. Hence, the blood sugar cannot enter the cells and accumulates in the blood beyond its limit. This results in diabetes.

Causes : Heredity plays an important role. Obesity, over-eating, lack of exercise, mental stress, certain drugs and repeated infections are

other causes. Till date no cure has been found for this disease. However, it can be controlled by using a combination therapy of drugs, diet and exercise.

*** K. Arul, Chennai.**

? What is cholesterol? How does it affect the heart?

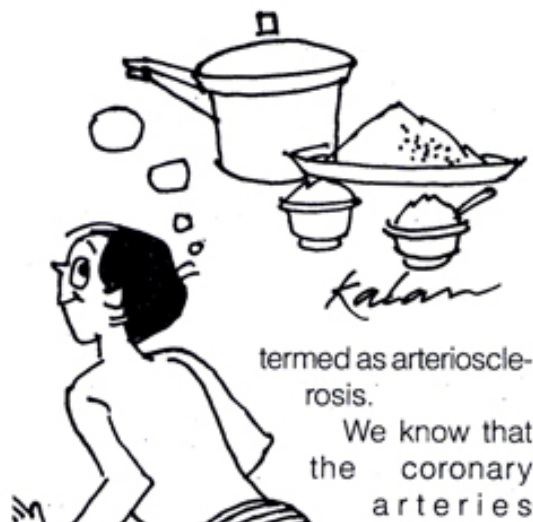
! Cholesterol is a fatty substance occurring either in a free state or as esters of fatty acid in all animal tissues. It is continuously synthesised in our body and also found in foods of animal origin.



Butter, ghee, egg yolk, cooking oils and meats, particularly brain and liver, contain high levels of cholesterol.

It is the basic material from which the body produces bile acids, hormones and pro-vitamin-D. Although cholesterol is needed by the body, a high level of cholesterol in the blood is harmful. Excess cholesterol gets deposited in the walls of arteries causing blockage and hardness.

Due to this, the quantity of blood flowing in the arteries decreases and consequently the oxygen supply to vital organs of our body also decreases. This condition is medically



termed as arteriosclerosis.

We know that the coronary arteries



carry blood to the heart muscles and provide oxygen. If one of them gets blocked by cholesterol, that particular part of the heart may stop functioning leading to heart attack.

*** B. Ashish Nayak, Mysore.**

? What is asthma? How does it occur? Is there any remedy?

! Asthma is a disease of the lungs affecting respiration. A person affected by asthma has recurrent attacks of difficulty in breathing, wheezing on expiration, coughing and phlegm. It is caused by a blockage of the bronchial tubes in the lungs. This blockage is caused by swelling of the membranes lining the bronchial tubes and

the presence of thick mucoid secretions. Shrinking of bronchial muscles can also cause the blockage. During coughing the mucoid secretions are thrown out of the lungs as phlegm.

Usually asthma is triggered by the inhalation of allergens like house dust, pollen, cat fur, feathers, mould spores, etc., and ingestion of drugs and certain foods. Infection of the lungs, heavy physical work, change in weather conditions and emotional stress can precipitate asthma.

It is treated with bronchodilators, steroids, antibiotics and antihistamines. Sometimes oxygen becomes essential for treatment. Elimination of the causative agent and hypersensitisation to the allergens are very important steps in the treatment.

**Dr. G. Ganesan,
Rajapalayam.**



THE JEALOUS SISTERS

Story : M. RAZMAH, Std. VIII A,
Hindu HSS, Vaniyambadi.
Illustration: THAMARAI

A wealthy man and his wife lived in a fine bungalow not far from the king's palace.

The man had three daughters.

One day the king passed that way in disguise. He overheard the three girls talk among themselves.

I'd like to marry the king's cook. I'd get to taste delicious food every day.

I'd like to marry the king's housekeeper.

Then I can live in the palace.

The third girl remained silent.

Whom will you marry?

I'd marry the king himself.

Then I can serve the kingdom and make the people happy.

The king was pleased with the third girl's answer.



The queen's jealous sisters did the same with the next child too

It was a stillborn child, O king.

God has been very unkind to me.

Meanwhile the old woman brought up the second child too. Years passed by.

The king still loves our sister.

We can't do anything about it.

Our ploy didn't work!

To think that we placed stillborns in their place!

The old woman overheard the conversation. She came to the king's court.

Your majesty, you have been cheated.

What do you mean? Explain yourself.

When the king learnt the truth —

Thank you and here's your reward.

Banish those two women from the kingdom.

Spare them, O king. They will reform.

The two sisters did turn over a new leaf. They repented for their evil deed.



- Heat is the internal energy that can be transferred from one body to another.
6. Several dark spaces in the milky-way.
7. It is the glowing light display in the upper atmosphere caused by the impact of the atomic particles ejected by the explosions on the sun.
8. Both will reach at the same time.
9. Blotting paper has high porosity making it capable of absorbing liquid.
10. Halo is the white ring seen around the moon on a cloudy night. It is caused by the total internal refraction of light by flat or pin-shaped ice crystals in certain types of high altitude clouds.

PHYSICS QUIZ

1. The tip of the whip moves faster than sound resulting in a crackling sound which is a minor sonic boom.
2. Spokes keep the wheel in shape. It absorbs the shock when the wheel hits a rock or stone and prevents the wheel from buckling.
3. It yields maximum volume in a given 3-D space.
4. The apple will move along with the spaceship in the same velocity according to Newton's first law of motion.
5. Temperature is the quantity of heat or cold in a body.

RIDDLES

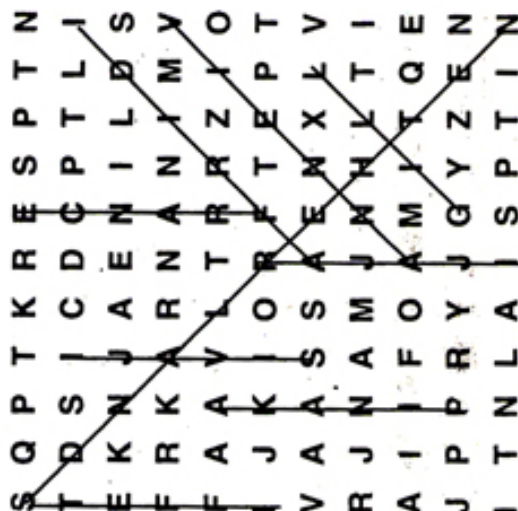
1. Chemistry
2. Biology
3. Physics
4. Mer-curry (mercury)
5. Tongues - ten (Tungsten)
6. (S)ilver

WHO'S FIRST?

As Priya is under the impression that her watch is ten minutes slow, she arrives at 5.50 thinking that she is exactly on time. But we know that her watch is five minutes fast. So the time is 5.45.

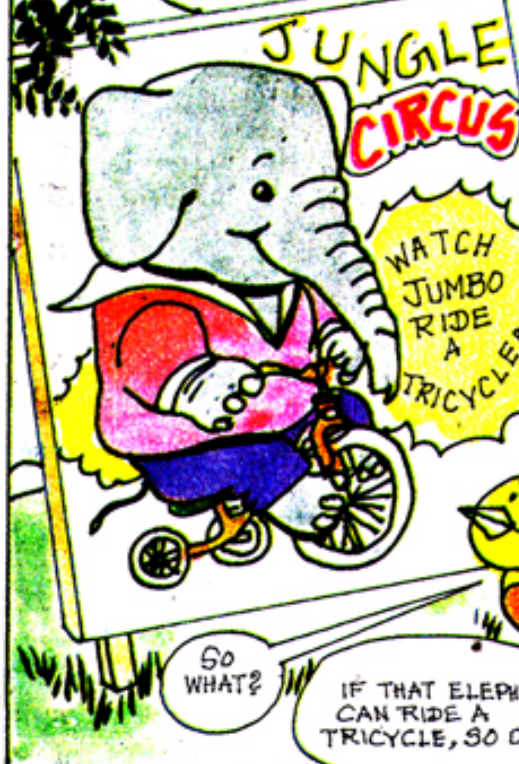
Rahul thinks his watch is five minutes fast so he saunters in confidently at 6.05. Since his watch is ten minutes slow, the actual time is 6.15. Which means Priya has been waiting for half an hour.

FIND ME



APPU & KUKU IN 'TRICYCLE'

LOOK
AT THAT,
KUKU.



SO
WHAT?

IF THAT ELEPHANT
CAN RIDE A
TRICYCLE, SO CAN I.



DON'T
BE A
FOOL,
APPU.
LET'S
GO TO
THE PARK.

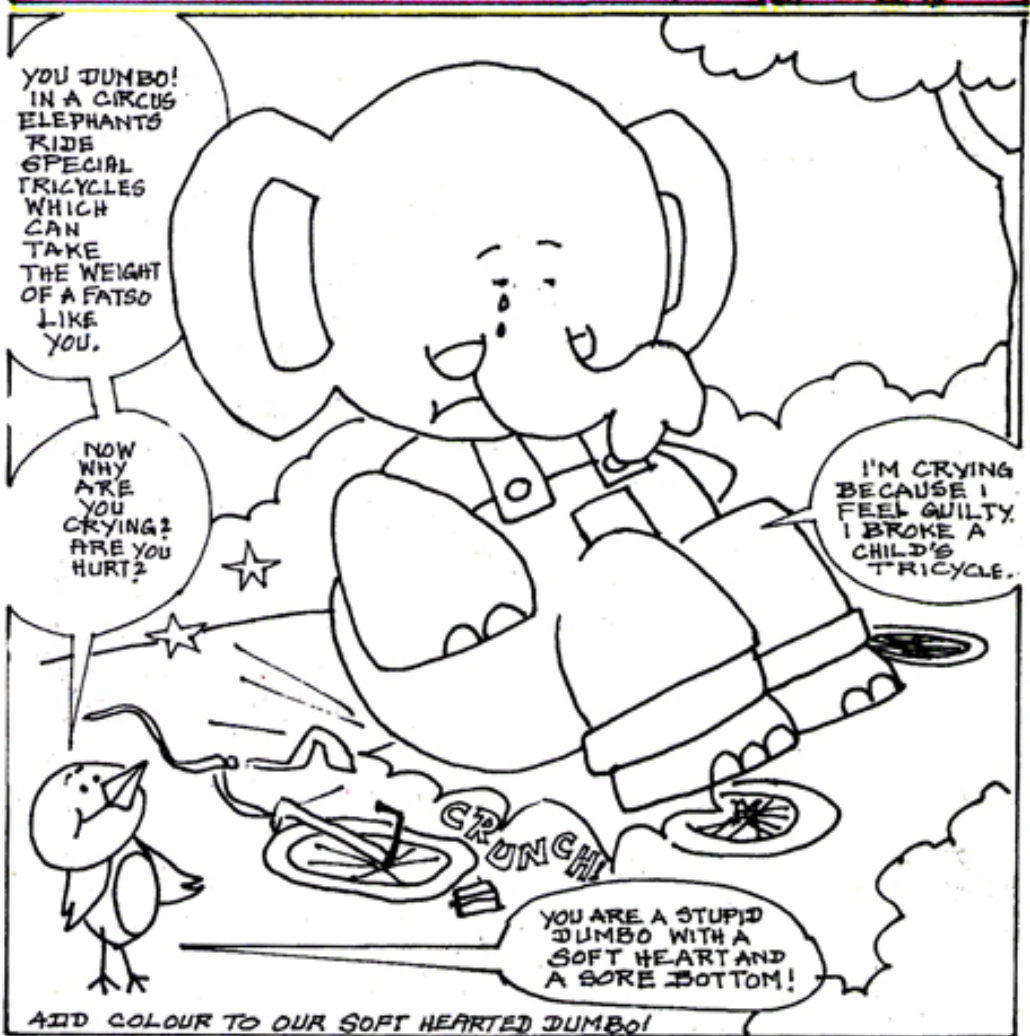
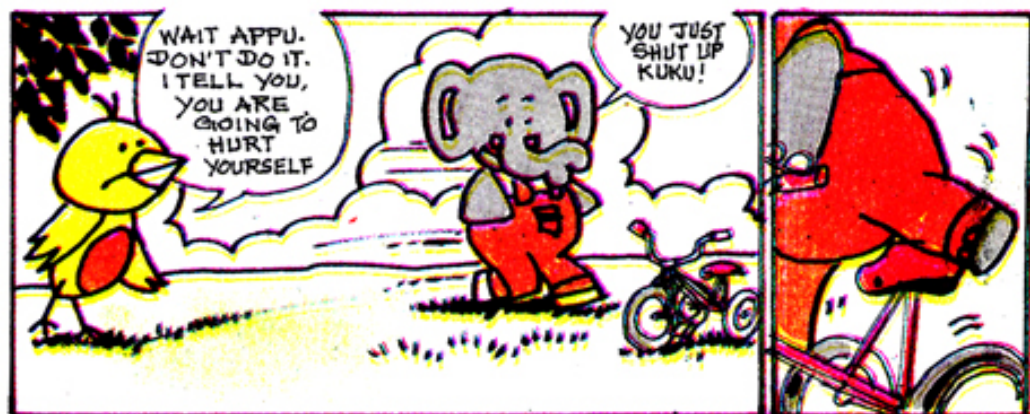
I KNOW
THIS BIRD
IS JEALOUS!

LATER
AT THE
PARK~

LOOK THERE.
A TRICYCLE-
I'LL GO AND
RIDE IT



STORY & ILLUSTRATIONS
J. DISNEY



Drama in real life

Once father took us to watch a play. My sixyear old brother wanted to know what a

play was. Father replied, "See for yourself. You will like it."

We had just been seated in the auditorium when there was a commotion.

The organisers

had sold more tickets than the number of seats available. Therefore, some people could not be seated.

They went to the stage and began shouting. There was complete chaos. The lead actors came on-stage to pacify the agitated viewers.

My brother, who had been silent all this while, asked, "Father, is this what is called drama?"

All of us laughed.

S. Lakshmi, Std. VII,

Jaigopal Garodia GHSS, Chennai.

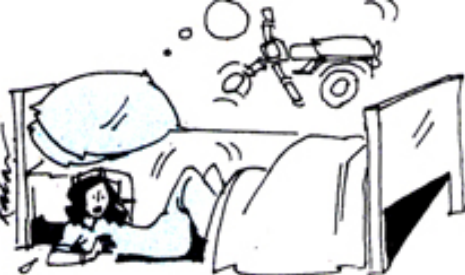
Diary entry, dreamy me!

9th August 2005, Monday.

What a lovely day! My 21st birthday! I was getting ready for college. A button in my dress was missing. The novel sewing



XPERIENCE



machine, the latest gizmo, fixed it up in a moment.

I rushed to college. The teacher, a robot,

was giving us a pictorial lecture on cloning. During the research hour, we visited a deep seabed which housed the bones of extinct whale species.

I returned home early. I was having a party to celebrate my birthday. My parents gifted me a two-wheeler that ran on synthetic petrol. I drove around the town in the vehicle.

A little while later, I felt myself falling down... down.... I sat up with a start. It was time to prepare for school.

**Binola Diaz, age - 13,
Loreto Convent School,
N.Delhi**

The stubborn door

Usually when I study for tests I close the door to my room. I had a test the next day and I was studying for it.

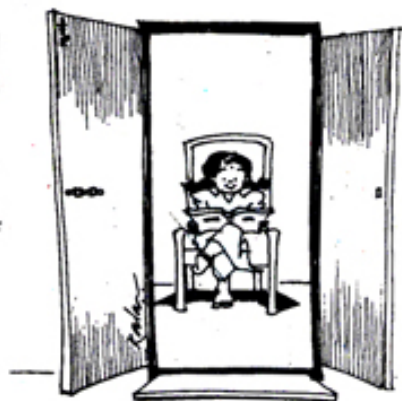
I tried to open the door as I wanted a glass of water. It wouldn't budge. It was raining outside. The deafening roar of thunder muffled my knocks on the door.

Suddenly the door was yanked open. There stood my mother. My father said that during monsoon as wood expands it is difficult to close doors or open them. Since then I never close the door to my room when I study. No matter how noisy the household is.

When I was locked inside my room I was very terrified.

S. Janaki, Std. V, Madurai.

*Dear Janaki, pl.
send in the name of
your school.*



WHAT DO a.m. AND p.m. MEAN?

Before the advent of clocks and watches people used to measure time by the movement of the sun in the sky. When the sun was exactly overhead they knew that half the day was over and this time



was known as mid-day which in latin is 'meridies'. The part of the day before midday is known as 'antimeridies' and the part of the day after midday is known as 'post meridies'. These words are abbreviated as a.m. and p.m.

**K. Aditya, Std.
VIII,
B.V. Reddy
School, Chittoor.**

THE CLEVER FARMER

Story :
A.W.Fazzim,
VIII A, Govt. GHSS,
Coimbatore.
Illustration :
MAHESH

The king who ruled Maharashtra was interested in the welfare of his subjects.



His ministers were not. They collected money and goods in the name of taxes.

One day —

Hey you! Give me one pumpkin as the king's tax.



Tukaram came to the market to sell his ripe pumpkins.

The second tax collector came —

You there! Give me two pumpkins as the general's tax.



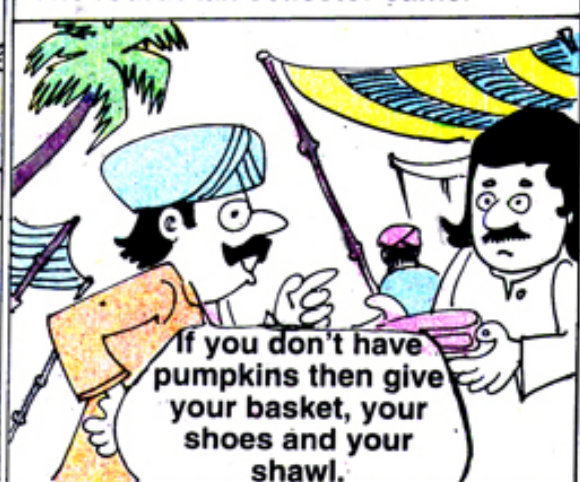
Tukaram was upset. The third tax collector came.

Hey! You owe me four pumpkins towards town tax.



The fourth tax collector came.

If you don't have pumpkins then give your basket, your shoes and your shawl.



Tukaram was very upset.



That night he thought up a plan.

The next day he went to the market dressed as a tax collector.



The merchant brought the kotwal (police).



The kotwal laughed —



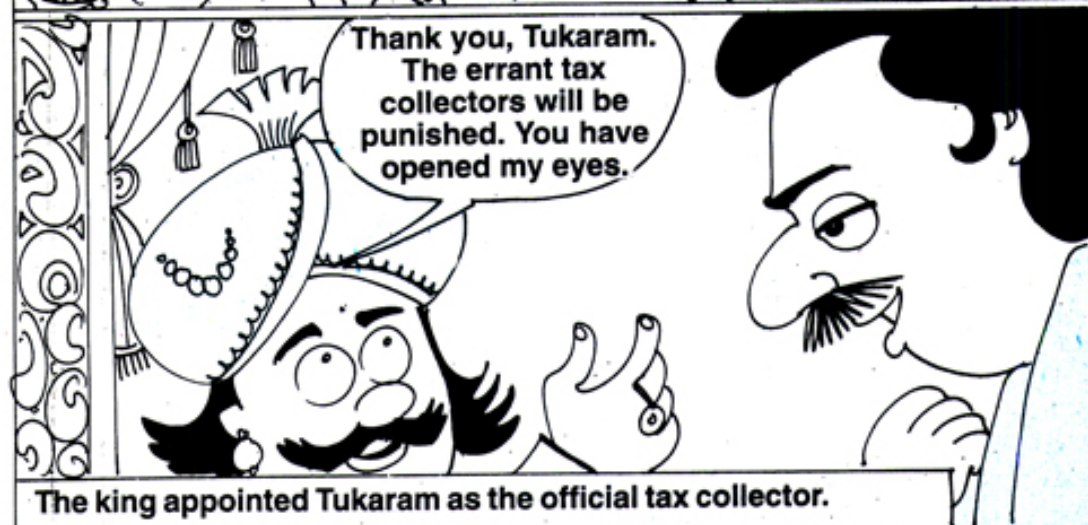
Tukaram gladly accompanied the kotwal.



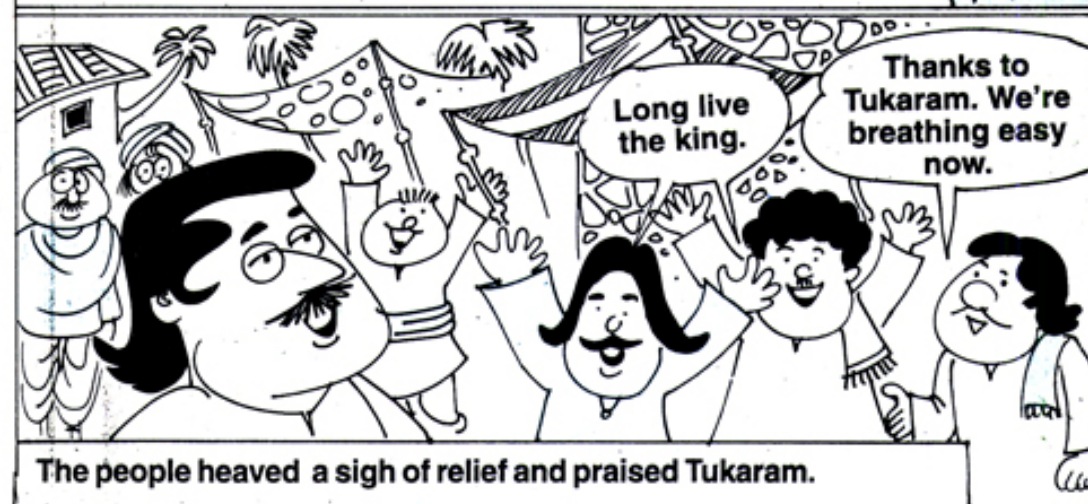
Tukaram narrated all that had happened.



Thank you, Tukaram.
The errant tax
collectors will be
punished. You have
opened my eyes.



The king appointed Tukaram as the official tax collector.



The people heaved a sigh of relief and praised Tukaram.



A fantasy serial complete with dwarfs, magicians - both good and evil, an invincible crime fighting super hero, romance, exciting computer graphics and so on.

The story starts in Siddhar Malai a forest wherein dwell three dwarfs as well as the 2000 years old magician Jingalan, guardian

of armour and magical weapons that would make a worthy person invincible. Midhulapuram is a nearby village whose inhabitants live in perpetual fear of the villainous magician Marakan and his henchmen. Swayambu is an innocent and gullible young man whose good naturedness is constantly exploited by the people of Pandavapuram, another nearby village. One of the dwarves is captured by Marakan's henchmen and in exchange for his life reveals the secret of Jingalan and the armour. The two magicians are soon engaged in a fierce war of magical powers and Jingalan is saved in the nick of time by Swayambu. He recognizes in Swayambu all the qualities of the person he has been waiting for all these centuries and starts training him in the use of the magical weapons. Swayambu completes his training successfully, dons the armour and becomes Maya the warrior.

Nivedhita, a reporter who had met Swayambu earlier in Pandavapuram and had found his innocence quite amusing, is surprised to meet him and the dwarves when she goes to Siddhar Malai to write an article on herbal medicine. While Swayambu falls in love with her but is unable to express it, Nivedhita falls in love with Maya having witnessed his feats without realising that Swayambu and Maya are one and the same person. The scene shifts to the city where Swayambu, who cannot divulge the truth to Nivedhita being bound by an oath of secrecy, is working as a gardener in her house. As Maya however, he continues to fight against crime and injustice with the help of Jingalan who appears every now and then to brief him about such happenings.

Star Cast : Nagendra Prasad, Swarna, Kanthimathi

Direction : B.R. Vijayalakshmi



**Every Wednesday at 8.00 p.m.
Only on your VIJAY TV — Don't miss it!**

LAZY RAHUL

Story : M. Rajesh, Std. VIII C, KV2, Chennai.
Illustration : SASI

Rahul came from a wealthy family. He was a lazy boy. He never helped around home.

Rahul, clean your room.

I'm busy mama.

Rahul get me a glass of water.

I am busy father.

Have you done your homework?

No miss.

Then kneel outside the class.

He never did his homework either.

Meanwhile, Rahul's mother fell very ill. The doctors couldn't diagnose her illness.

I am sorry sir. She may not survive.

Look! I have Rs. 200! Let's spend it all.

It was not long before Rahul fell into bad company.

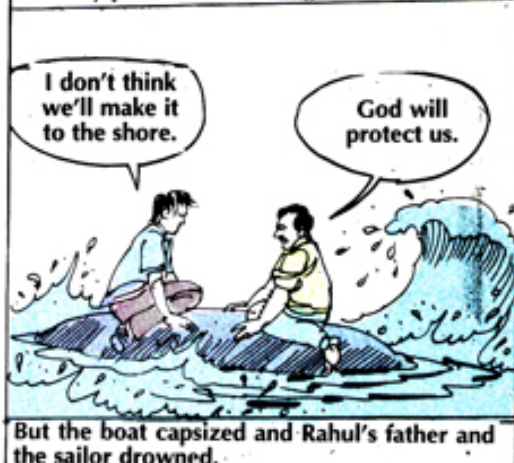
Soon, Rahul's mother died. Rahul's father busied himself with his business. Rahul grew up into a young man.

Look! I have Rs. 2000! Come, let's enjoy.

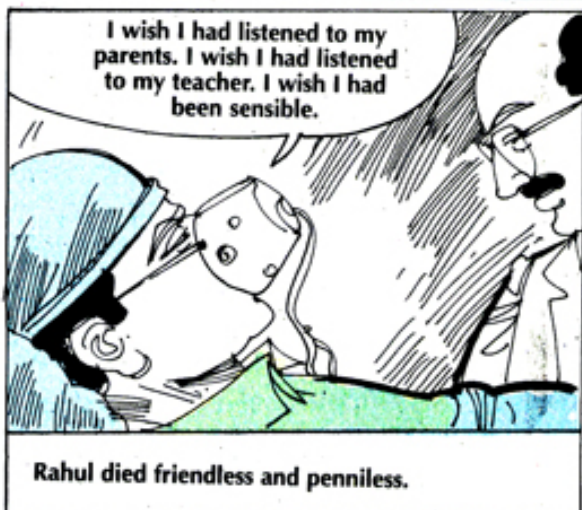
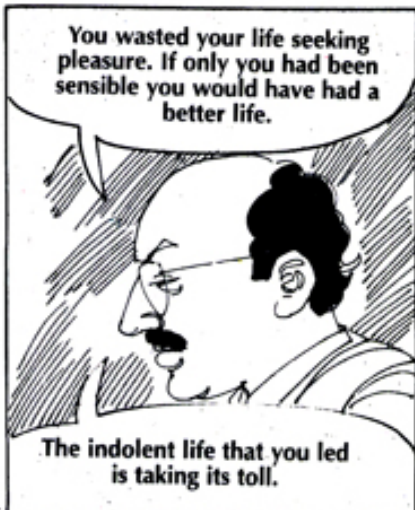
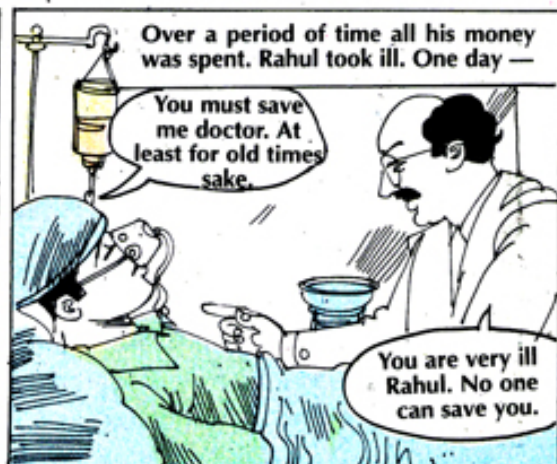
Rahul spent his money wastefully and lavishly. One day —



Rahul's father loved sailing, he often sailed to faraway places. The storm grew violent.



Even after his father's death, Rahul didn't reform.



GEE BOOM BHA

In the present set up of the society is such that the children are having more mental pressure which was not present earlier, in their houses, in the school and in the outside world. Escaping from this mental tension, — they long to

reach a dream world where they can get whatever they want and where things happen according to — their wishes. This is an imaginary story of such a boy if he is able to get whatever he desires and what he will do in such a situation.

Arun is a boy of ten years old. Both his father and mother are employed. Though they have more affection care and love on their son, they could not devote more time with their



son because of their daily routine activities. To listen to the boy's problems, to fulfill the needs of the boy, to play with him and to praise his talents, to sit with him and talk patiently with him, the parents could not find time. Because of this lonely atmosphere in which Arun is growing, he is unable to move freely among the other students of his class in the school. Though Arun is intelligent, because of his inability to express boldly what he wants to say, the teachers take him to be a dull student. The other students also mistake Arun and they keep a distance from Arun. Because he is separated from his parents as well as the class students, his daily existence is one of dejection, insults and hatred. Under these circumstances, he happens to come across a magic pencil.

With that magic pencil, if he draws any figure of his desire, immediately that object comes out of the drawing and Arun gets it. If Arun wants Ice-cream and if he draws ice-cream with that magic pencil, then immediately he gets ice-cream. Like this, according to his desires, from small rose flower to car, elephant — anything big or small, from doctor, policeman to superman, Arun can create. The object will disappear after the purpose is served.

After the arrival of the magic pencil, Arun's life changes completely.



**From 23.01.2000 (Sunday) at 8.00 p.m.
Only on your VIJAY TV — Don't miss it!**

Naresh was a young boy. He lived in a village. His father was a poor farmer. Their family could barely afford one square meal a day. Naresh had a pet dog named Tiger. Naresh always shared whatever food he got with his pet.

Naresh studied in a school in the nearby town. He was good at studies. He would also help his parents in their work. In the evening he took Tiger for a walk on the banks of the nearby river.

One night, a gang of thieves came to their village. They looted many houses. The next day when the police came they could not find any clue with which they could nab the culprits.

The next day when Naresh took his dog for a walk, something strange happened. Naresh tried to make his dog walk. But Tiger wouldn't listen. Instead he began digging in the sand. Soon, he emerged with a wallet.

Naresh went through the wallet. There was an address slip. Naresh went to the police station and handed it over to the police inspector.

A few days later news came to the village that Naresh had helped nab the thieves who had looted the village.

The wallet had belonged to one of the thieves the police had learnt in their investigation.

Soon, all the stolen goods were returned to their rightful owners. Naresh and Tiger were awarded Rs.



NARESH'S TIGER

10,000 for their services. The newspapers carried their pictures. The story about how Naresh and Tiger had helped nab the thieves also appeared.

Naresh was pleased. So were his parents.

**R. Pravarthika, Std. V,
Jawahar Vidhyalaya, Chennai.**





The draught board is divided into 8 rows, each of 8 squares. There are 64 squares altogether. The game of chess is played on the same kind of board.

There is an old legend which says, when the game of chess was invented, the King of Persia was very much pleased with the game.

He told the inventor of the game to ask for any reward that he liked and it

would be granted. The reward the inventor asked for sounded simple.

He asked for 1 grain of wheat for the first square of the board; 2 grains for the second square; 4 grains for the third and so-on doubling the number of grains each time until all the squares on the board were accounted for.

That is :

1st square — 1

2nd square — 2

3rd square — 4

4th square — 8

and so on....

By the time you have worked out

A SIMPLE REWARD

the number of grains for the 64th square, your head will begin to reel!

**M. Vinodh,
Vridhhachalam**

Dear Vinodh, pl. send in your age and the name of your school.

BUDDING CHEF

SEV PURI

You need :

- 2 onions
- 2 tomatoes
- 2 boiled and mashed potatoes
- 2 green chillies
- 1 packet of puris
- A bunch of coriander leaves
- 2 tbsp. grated coconut
- 1 cup sev
- Salt

Chutney :

Grate coriander leaves, green chillies, coconut and salt in a mixie. Add a little

water. Set aside.

Sev Puri :

Place puris in a circle on a plate. Make holes in them with your thumb. Fill the puris with mashed potatoes and finely chopped onions and tomatoes. Dress the puri with one tsp. of chutney. Sprinkle sev and serve.



**Shweta Padmanabhan,
Std. IX,
Modern Eng. School,
Mumbai.**

Dear Shweta, pl. send your house address.

Young boys often

tie a butterfly to a string and watch it struggle to break free.

This is a common sport among boys.

Men still use bullocks to carry burden. The cart drawn by the bullocks is laden with goods.

Often the animals buckle under the burden. The cart driver will mercilessly flog the animal and will twist its tail in a bid to make it run faster.

Sometimes, the animal collapses unable to bear the burden.

Often hens are carried on bicycles to the slaughter houses with their legs tied together. The poor birds flap their wings, vainly hoping to fly off.

Cruelty to animals continues unabated. Apart from such behaviour, animals have to put up with more woes. Supersti-

tious men still sacrifice animals and birds to appease god. Gods are known to be merciful and kind. So,



LIVE AND LET LIVE

Often hens are carried on bicycles to the slaughter houses with their legs tied together. The poor birds flap their wings, vainly hoping to fly off.

Cruelty to animals continues unabated. Apart from such behaviour, animals have to put up with more woes. Supersti-

tious men still sacrifice animals and birds to appease god. Gods are known to be merciful and kind. So,





why do people kill animals to please Him?

Quite a number of people eat meat. Countless animals and birds are slaughtered for this purpose. Many times the animals are conscious when they are killed. The least we could do is to stun the animal and then bring about its death.

Animals are huddled together in lorries and taken to slaughter houses.

They are not fed until they reach the slaughter house. Some animals die on the way from hunger and exhaustion. Can't the death of these animals be made less painful?

Frog legs are considered a delicacy in some parts of the world. People who cater to this

taste, often make the frog's life miserable. In the name of being kind to the frogs, they merely amputate the frog's hind legs and return the frog to its habitat. The frog is then left to die a painful and slow death.

Having pets at home may sound good. Why don't we stop to think whether we are doing the right thing? When we teach a parrot to talk we are going against its lifestyle in the wild. We may feed it well but



surely we can't give it its freedom?

Rabbits and parrots are kept in cages lest they leave us. Dogs are taught to obey our commands. Don't we love our freedom? Why curtail an animal's freedom?

In some countries, certain animal-oriented sports are considered national sports. Cock and turkey fights and the goring of a bull to death by humans are considered

invigorating sports.

Stray dogs are removed from the roads in a bid to make the roads safe for people. But they are done to death by either clubbing them on the head or injecting them with poison. Gypsies often capture stray cats and kill them for meat. Some tribals are known to kill snakes for their valuable skin.

Imagine how dreary our world would be without animals and birds.



Should we not then learn to love and respect nature?

Why do we need an entertainment where animals like elephants and bears are made to perform for our amusement? Often these animals undergo rigorous training and are beaten up many times before they can learn to master the sport. Wouldn't these animals be pleasing to the eye if they were in their natural habitat?

If we returned these animals to the wild, we would have a beautiful world. Don't you agree? It is not for us to arrogate to ourselves any superiority over other creatures simply because they are unable to express themselves and argue their cases.

K.R. Ramachandran, Chennai.

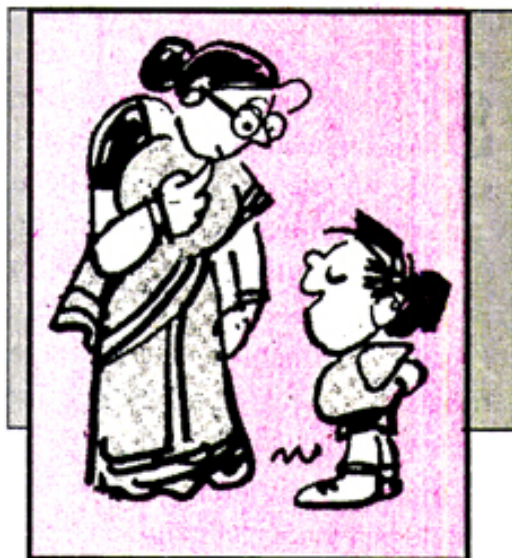


I cry for the silliest reasons. Everybody calls me a crybaby and teases me about it. I try to ignore them but cannot and it makes me cry more. I am very short-tempered too. I explode for the silliest reason. What am I to do?

**K. Mahesh, age 9,
KV, Palakkad.**

Dear Mahesh,

This is just a part of growing up. Next time somebody teases you, ignore them. When you get angry, count upto 100. If you find it very hard to listen to others' comments, just walk out of the room. Go for a walk. You will feel much better after that.



I am 14 years old. Ours is a joint family. My uncle runs a hotel. A new servant, who is of my age, has been appointed. He always teases me in front of my cousins. My cousins have never teased me. Now they too have joined hands with him. I am losing my concentration. I can't study. I have complained about this to my uncle and my mother. But to no avail. I feel thoroughly demoralised. Please advice.

**T. Divya, Std. IX,
Canara Girls HS,
Mangalore.**

Dear Divya,

Be firm with your cousins and the hotel employee. Tell them in no uncertain terms that you will not tolerate such talk anymore. Have your mother and uncle listen in on your conversations. Your mother will then speak to your cousins and the employee. She will put the employee in his place.

GRANDMA WORM

games is between five and seven in the evening. A good game of TT or badminton or cricket will relax you immensely. You can play video games for an hour on Sundays. You can study for two to three hours everyday. Devote more time to mathematics. Take help from your teacher or parents. Try to master one game. You cannot become a champion in all the games.



She will also warn your cousins against such behaviour towards you.

I am in standard VIII. I find Mathematics difficult. I want to be a champion in table tennis, badminton, cricket, swimming and video games. I can't devote time for all this. Please give me a time-table.

C. Gokuldeep, KV, KGF.

Dear Gokuldeep,

Set apart time for studies and games. The best time for

Our class split into two because of a fight. It all began with a small misunderstanding. Ours is a co-education school. The boys and girls shared a cordial relationship until this happened. How do we bring back peace in the class?

**Girls of VIII A,
M.G.C.V., Trichy.**

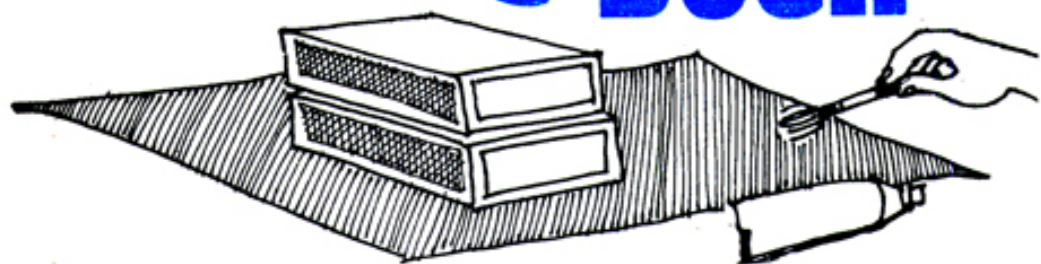


The best way is to talk it out with the boys. Take your class teacher's help. Tell her what went wrong. She will help sort it out for you.

**Love,
Grandma worm**

CREATIVE
CORNER

ROCKING DUCK



NUMBER GAME

Ask your friend to choose any number. Have him multiply it by 2. And then by 5. Ask him to tell you the result.

Now you can give him the number he chose. Suppose he chose 25. $25 \times 2 = 50$, $50 \times 5 = 250$. Drop 0 and you arrive at the number chosen. This works with any number.

Swati Baveja, age 9,
J.B. Vachha HS, Mumbai.



A bee was pestering an elephant. It sat on the elephant's trunk. The irate elephant said to the bumble bee, "would you like to be big like me?"

"Buzz," said the bee, "I am not very small."

"Grump," said the elephant, "you are hardly visible."

This angered the bee. He decided not to take recourse to anger. "Don't you wish you could fly?" he asked the elephant.

The elephant thought it over. He imagined how it would be if he could fly. Could it be



You need :

Two cardboards
Colour paint box
Two match boxes
Colour papers
Scissors

Method :

1. Take two cardboards, draw the picture of a duck in each.
2. Cut the two cardboard ducks and paint them.
3. Take two empty match boxes and wrap them in colour paper.
4. Paste the two cardboard ducks with the match box in the middle.
5. Now your rocking duck is ready. It rocks if you touch it.

S. Deepa, VII C
Carmel Convent,
Bangalore.



possible for him to fly? But the elephant did not think he would like to fly. So he said, "Why should I? Would you like my trunk to help you gather honey?"

"Buzz," said the bee. "I would look very funny."

"Huh! Everyone knows bees are not wanted in circus shows."

The bee did not bat an eyelid. He said, "Yes, just as elephants are never wanted in

sugarcane farms."

V. Arun Muthuvel, Std. VI C
Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan,
Thindal, Erode.





An unusual offering

Lord Venkateshwara of Tirumala, received an unusual offering in October 1997. A diesel autorickshaw was offered by the auto dealers of Andhra Pradesh.

A unique buffalo

A buffalo with two heads, two tails and seven feet tall was born in a

northern Egyptian province.

People here believe that the mother buffalo must have grazed in the fields treated with insecticides or, it may have been given drugs.

Oldest nanny

A French woman, Mrs. Jenne Calmant, was considered the oldest

AN AUTORICKSHAW FOR GOD

living human being. She passed away at the age of 120 years and 238 days in October 1995.

Don't say pants!

'Pants' was considered a dirty word in England in the 1880s. It was improper to say, 'leg of a table' in public. Queen Victoria scolded her grandchild (who was only six then) for appearing outside her room without clothes.

Ice, ice!

There are more than 100 words in the Eskimo language for ice.

Fat? No problem!

China has opened a special winter camp fat school in Beijing.

Teacher : Raju, where is America in this map?

Raju : I cannot see it madam!

Teacher : Stand up on the bench.

Raju : I still cannot see it madam!

M. Sowmya, age 12,

Bangalore .



SNIPPETS SNIPPETS SNIPPETS

The school will cater to the country's growing number of obese children. The children will get five days of counselling on eating habits and exercises.



Tallest Christmas tree

Asia's tallest Christmas tree was erected in Dec. 1997 at the

West Kidwai Nagar Fair Ground in N. Delhi. The tree was 51 ft. high.

More on Titanic

Wireless operator Robert Hunston received the distress call late on the night of April 14, 1912. For 85 years, his two page handwritten notes were kept secret by his family. The notes described the minute-by-minute developments as he and two colleagues tried to get help for the doomed ship.

A new multimedia display of the ship's artefact's at a museum in Halifax prompted Hunston's family to release the notes. Curator Dan Colin said that the log provides one of the most concise summaries about what happened to the ship.

Suresh K. Anjum,
Calcutta.



Suhas, Martin and Pavan were eagerly awaiting their winter holidays. Each had a plan for the holidays. Finally the exams were over and the holidays commenced. The boys decided to rest for a couple of days. Then they held a meeting.

In the meeting it was decided that they would go for a cycle hike. They planned to visit Kottegundupur, in the outskirts of Bangalore. They would camp for two days, they concluded. Two more of their friends joined them.

They were able to convince their parents and set out on their bicycles for Kottegundupur. They reached the place at nine in the morning. The place was said to be home to wolves. The boys were curious. They

decided to explore the place. A cursory walk around the place proved that there were no wolves. Three boys went to pick twigs for the campfire while the others began pitching tents.

By twilight, they had a merry fire burning. They had also prepared some cocoa and baked a few sweet potatoes. Soon, it was dark. They sat for a long time around the fire discussing school. Varun was an amateur astronomer.

He peered into the night sky trying to locate the constellations of leo, virgo and the scorpio. None of the other boys believed him when he said that he could spot the ursa major. Yet, they were willing to let him have his fun. Soon, it was time for bed.

FOUND A CRYING WOLF



The boys put out the fire and went into the tents bidding each other good night.

Suhas was woken by some strange sound. He turned around but everything seemed silent. He must have dozed off. When he turned around to the entrance of the tent the next time, he saw a furry animal enter the tent. It sniffed Pavan and Varun and then snuggled between the two of them.

Suhas almost felt his breathing stop. It was a wolf. He wondered what he should do. He waited for a few minutes. The wolf was asleep. He slowly woke up Varun. He whispered to Varun to wriggle out of the tent without disturbing Pavan. Suhas then woke up Pavan. He asked Pavan to wriggle out of the tent, without making noise.

When the boys were out of the tent, he told them that a wolf had occupied their tent. By now the other boys too were awakened. They sat around wondering how to get rid of the wolf. The furry animal, however, seemed to have a more sensitive ear than the boys. The noise created by the boys had awakened the animal. It emerged from the tent and scampered away. It was then that they realised that the animal was a furry dog and not a wolf.

Suhas P. Hiremagalur,
Std. VIII B,
St. Joseph's Boys HS,
Bangalore.



HARK! WE'RE SPEAKING

What do we do
When we come to school?
Class tests and lessons
No time to play the fool.
Don't ask questions
Just study and obey.
Good children stay quiet,
That's what they say.
Sit when we say so,
Don't run but walk.
But do you ever listen
When we get to talk?
We need to study, yes.
But why don't you see
That we must let
Our minds roam free?
We, need sports and clubs,
Dance, music and plays
Less of homework
More of activity days.
Teachers and parents,
We'd like it much more
If school was more fun
And less of a bore!

Deepika Khanwadia, Std. VIII E,
AECS, Tarapur 1, Thane.

PENPALS

Address : 310 A, Pera Naidu Layout,
Ram Nagar, Coimbatore - 641 009.

Name : **N. Devipriya**

Age : 14

Hobbies : Painting, nature-watching,
stitching, cooking, reading, stamp
collecting and making friends.

Address : 569, 7th Main, 'A' type,
BDA Qtrs, Domlur, Bangalore - 560
071.

Name : **MA. Majid**

Age : 15

Hobbies : Read books, listen to music.

Address : Q.No. 270/E, BHEL
Township, R.C.Puram, Hyderabad - 32.

Name : **A.B. Huwayda**

Age : 13

Hobbies : Reading comics, playing,
music, painting, nature-watching,
stitching.

Address : 912, HAL III Stage,
I Main, I Cross, Theppasandra, Opp.
BEML, Bangalore - 75.

Name : **Kartik Hariharan**

Age : 13

Hobbies : Stamp and coin collection
and playing games.

Address : 35/4, Postal Colony,
Chembur, Mumbai - 71.

Name : **G. Archana**

Age : 16

Hobbies : Listening to music,
gardening, reading, handicraft, cooking,
photography, collection of stamps,
dancing, singing.

Name : **A.B. Jamal**

Age : 9

Hobbies : Watching TV, playing,
reading comics.

Address : 912, HAL III Stage,
I Main, I Cross, Theppasandra, Opp.
BEML, Bangalore - 75.

Name : **S.V. Hrishikesh**

Age : 14

Hobbies : Collecting gift wrappers,
stamps and reading Gokulam and other
books, cycling.

Address : R2D Dept. (P.O.),
HCL (POST), Hyderabad - 500 051.

Name : **V. Swarna,**

Age : 17

Hobbies : Listening to music, dancing,
drawing and pen friends.

Address : 'Gomathy Gardens',
C.C.N.B. Road, Near Iron Bridge,
Alleppey - 688 011, Kerala.

Name : **S. Vaishnavi**

Age : 12

Hobbies : Painting, listening to music,

dancing. Love humorous people.

Address : A-7, Pragati Vihar Hostel,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

Name : **R. Nivas**

Age : 17

Hobbies : Reading, music, also
sleeping.

Address : A2/407, BHEL Township,
Kailasapuram, Trichy - 620 014.

Name : **Shwetha Bhat**

Age : 12

Hobbies : Stamp collecting, singing,
reading story books.

Address : 12-3 (I), 'Shyama Nilaya'
Jayanagar, Todambail, P.O. Surathkal - 574
158. Mangalore.

Name : **S. Ramya**

Age : 13

Hobbies : Chatting, reading novels,
making new friends (penpals) pets,
listening to music, drawing.

Address : C2/13, DOS Housing
Colony, Indira Nagar, Bangalore - 560 008.

Name : **E. Silambu Selvi**

Age : 13

Hobbies : Reading comics, listening to
music.

Address : C-9, Block C-2, DOS Colony,
Domlur, Newland II Stage, Bangalore -
560 071.

Name : **P. Carolin**

Age : 13

Hobbies : Reading books, singing,
listening to music, cycling, chatting,
dancing.

Address : 165/A-1, DOS Colony, J-4
Road, J.B. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 075.

Name : **P. Selvyn**

Age : 14

Hobbies : Singing, chatting with
friends.

Address : 165/A-1, DOS Colony, J-4
Road, J.B. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 075.

Name : **B. Annette Nithya**

Age : 11

Hobbies : Dancing, singing, painting,
reading stories, writing poems and stories.

Address : B/191, BHEL Township,
Ranipet - 632 406.

Alladin : (rubbing his
magic lamp) GENIE, GIVE ME
A big palace.

GENIE : Stupid! If I had
A big palace do you think
I'd be sitting in this small
lamp?

**Lakshmi, Std. IX,
ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL,
AURANGABAD.**



There was once an old farmer who had a lazy son. The son spent most of his time eating and sleeping.

The farmer tried to make his son work on the farm. But his wife loved the son too much to let him work in the hot sun. So as the son grew older, he became lazier. The old farmer was both sad and angry.

One day he said to his wife, "I am very old. Soon I shall die. I will give away all I have to my friends. I won't give anything to our son. He is a lazy fellow and I'll not give him anything, not even a paisa!"

The wife was not happy at all. "You must give him all you have," said his wife. "After all he's your only son."

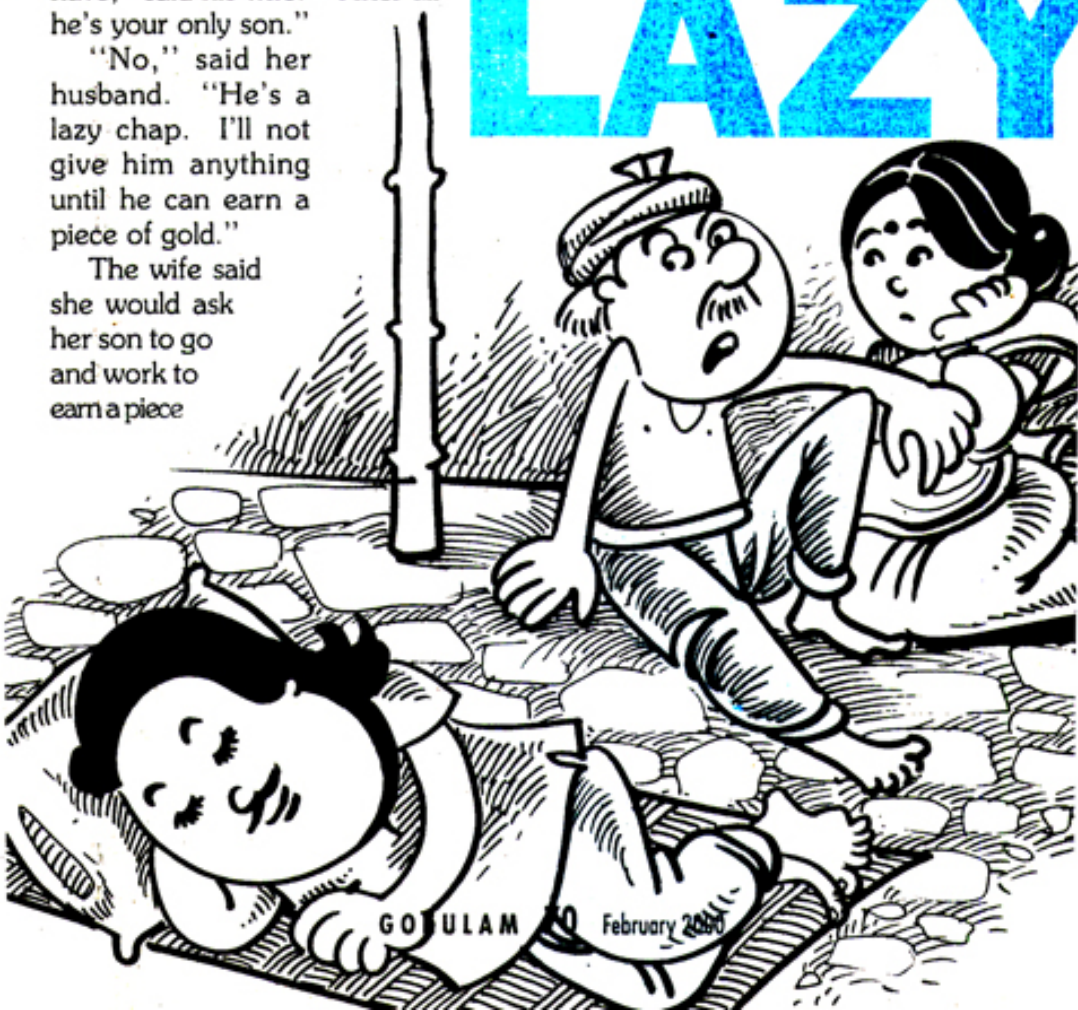
"No," said her husband. "He's a lazy chap. I'll not give him anything until he can earn a piece of gold."

The wife said she would ask her son to go and work to earn a piece

of gold. She woke her son up and gave him a piece of gold. "Go to town tomorrow morning", she said. "Then come back in the evening and show this piece of gold to your father. Tell him you have worked very hard and earned it. Your father will be very glad to know that you aren't lazy anymore. He will give you all that he has when he dies."

The son did as he was told. In the town he spent his time eating and sleeping. In the evening he returned home.

THE **H**e gave the piece of gold to his LAZY



father. "Father", he said, "I have worked hard today and earned this piece of gold."

The old farmer threw the piece of gold into the fire. "The piece of gold isn't yours" he said.

The lazy son merely smiled and walked away.

The next morning his mother gave the son another piece of gold and some



you work hard and give what you have earned to your father, then he'll surely believe you."

SON

money. "Go to town again, my boy," she said. "Don't come back until two days later. As soon as you are back, show this piece of gold to your father and say that you have worked very hard and earned it."

The son did as he was told and spent all his time loitering. Two days later, he returned and handed the piece of gold to his father. "Father, I have worked hard and earned this piece of gold," he said.

The farmer threw the piece of gold into the fire. "This piece of gold is not yours", he said.

The son smiled and walked away as if nothing had happened.

"My son" his mother said, "we mustn't cheat your father anymore. You must really go to work now. You may not earn a piece of gold a day, but if

The son took his mother's advice. He went to work on another farm. He worked hard for a month and earned a piece of gold. Then he came home. Proudly he showed the piece of gold to his father. "Father" he said, "I have indeed worked very hard this time and truly earned this piece of gold!"

The farmer took the gold. He went to the fire. But before he could throw the piece of gold into it, his son rushed up to him and snatched the piece of gold from his hand.

"Are you mad?" he shouted. "I spent a whole month working in the hot sun just to earn this piece of gold. Why do you want to throw it into the fire?"

The old father smiled. He hadn't smiled for a very long time. He said, "Son, I believe you now. You have at last earned for yourself a piece of gold. I am very proud of you!"

**Nargis Nizami, Std. VIII,
St. Agnes' School, Kharagpur.**

Late one evening as Emperor Akbar was about to retire one of his servants approached the emperor.

"Your majesty, a pandit has arrived from a southern kingdom. He seeks a meeting with you and Birbal."

hundred easy questions or one difficult question.

Akbar was not in a mood to sit through a hundred easy questions. So, he told the pandit to ask



Q

QUESTION HOUR

Akbar asked the servant, "What does he want?"

The servant said, "He's heard a lot about your wisdom and Birbal's wit. He would like to ask Birbal a few questions."

Akbar thought for a while and then asked the servant to show him in.

When the pandit entered, he asked Birbal if he would like to answer a

Birbal one difficult question.

The pandit now turned to Birbal and asked, "Which came first - the hen or the egg?"

Without wasting a second Birbal said, "the hen".

"How can you be so sure?" the pandit asked.

Birbal replied, "That I'm afraid is your second question, Panditji. We had agreed that I would answer only one question."

The pandit stood admiring Birbal's wit of which he had only heard.

**H.D. Deepika, Std. VIII,
Vijaya HS, Bangalore.**

Children in circus

Often children go to work in circus because of financial difficulties. These children lose out on their childhood and education in pursuit of money.

They are trained to do acrobatics that are not only difficult but also dangerous.

Everytime we watch a circus show let us remember that we are promoting child labour, though in a very different form.

**S. Anulekha, age 16,
N.S.S. College,
Thiruvananthapuram.**

National integration

All said and done, we are still lacking in unity in our country. Communal riots have not been wiped out. Regionalism is a threat to our unity.

We have a mind-set that refuses to



accept people who speak different languages even within the same country. This is dangerous. People today have forgotten the ideals that their parents and grandparents held so dear. They have forgotten the bitter struggle that preceded independence.

At least in the 21st century we should learn to give up communalism and regionalism. Let us inculcate in ourselves the spirit of tolerance. Let us work towards economic stability. Let us progress as a nation.

Sasi Malar, I M.B., B.S., Karur.

Hygiene in cities

Why do people answer nature's call on our footpaths and tree-lined avenues? How come people do not realise that they are defiling a public place? Both educated and uneducated

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people show scant respect for cleanliness.

Not only is it crassly indecent, but the roadsides also become breeding grounds for illness and diseases. The corporation and the municipality have provided toilets along roads. Surely these toilets are for use of the public?

M.L. Anand,
Gulbarga.

Dear Anand, pl. send in your age and the name of your school.

Theism or atheism?

It is upto each individual to decide if he wants to believe in God. No one can enforce a decision on anybody. Why should one thrust his beliefs on others? Why should atheists be criticised for not believing in God?

We must learn to respect each other's views. Why should we feel embarrassed to hold a view that is not inkeeping with the others. We can hold

ANITA : I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR MANY DAYS.
MOTI : Oh, THEN YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED.
ANITA : OF COURSE NOT, I SLEEP EVERY NIGHT.
N. Padini, CHENNAI.



on to our opinions. Let us not be influenced by other people's views.

Ranjita, age 14,
Ahlcon PS, N. Delhi.

We need book fairs

A book fair is a place for book lovers to gather and browse through at leisure.

It is not possible for us to

buy all the books. A fair serves an important cultural and social purpose. It inculcates in us a thirst for knowledge. Instead of having merely one or two fairs in a year we could have a permanent fair. This would build in young minds the desire to read. Wouldn't a knowledgeable nation pave



way for progress and prosperity?

Debanjana Dasgupta, age 13,
St. Xaviers Institution, Calcutta.

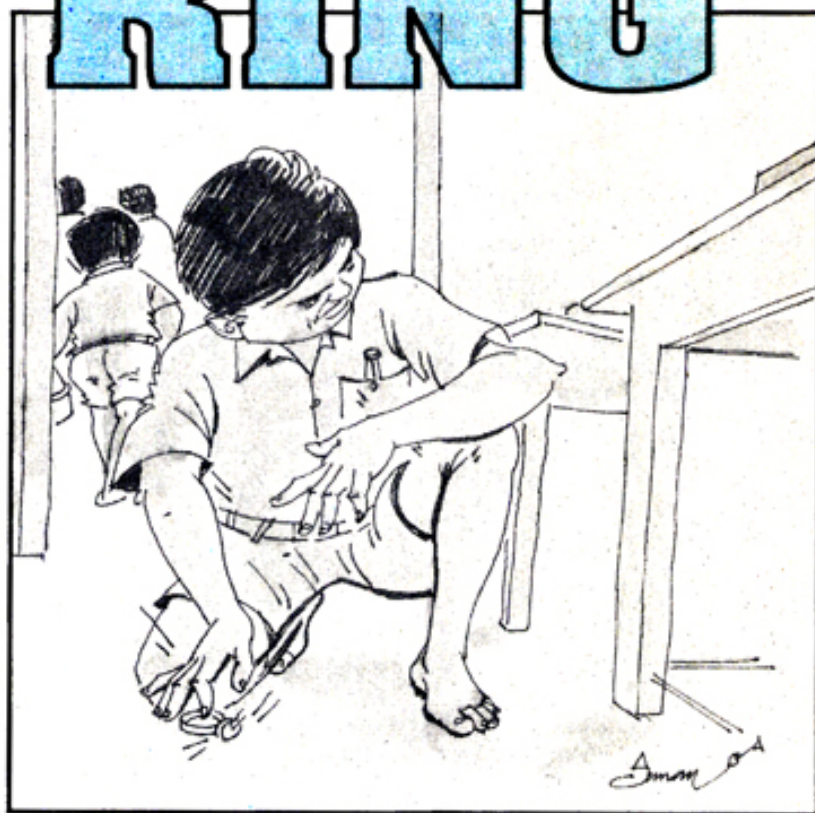
Shankar was a good student. He was also a brave and well-mannered boy. He had a weakness. He wanted to possess anything that was novel. He would go every evening to the market with his father. He would ask his father to buy for him the new things that were displayed in the market.

One day, his best friend Ramakrishna brought to school a beautiful pencil box. Shankar wanted to buy a similar box. But the shopkeeper told him that the box was not available in India. It could be bought only in Singapore. Shankar was very upset. No matter how much his parents tried to console him, he couldn't forget the box.

One day, Ravi, a wealthy boy in the class came to school wearing a diamond ring. Shankar took an

immediate fancy to the ring. The diamond in the ring shone brightly. Shankar could not take his eyes away from the ring. During lunch break, when all the

THE LOST RING



boys had left the class, Shankar was alone. Just as he was walking out of the class, he saw something glitter on the floor.

It was Ravi's ring. Shankar

DID YOU KNOW?



● The first TV in the world was sold in 1928 to the then British Prime Minister for 12,00 pounds by Baird, the scientist who invented it.

● Lakerudolph is a small island in Kenya. Whatever the number of births, and deaths may be, the island always maintains its population exactly at 100.

● The world's biggest omelette was prepared in 1988 by the villagers of Meximieux, in Central France. About 61020 eggs went into its making in a pan 7.2 metres across.

● Born in 1984, fourteen year old Dusan of Belgrade, was able to correctly give the day of any date of any year, either past, present or future. Even today she reels off the telephone numbers of all the Belgrade subscribers without looking into the directory.

M.V. Naidu, Hyderabad.



looked around hoping that no one had entered the room. He silently pocketed the ring.

By the end of the lunch hour Ravi realised that he had lost his ring. He searched everywhere. Some of his friends suggested that he should report the loss to the principal. The principal may organise a search. The principal asked the class teacher to check all the students' bags. Shankar realised that he would be caught anyway. So, he confessed to the crime.

The principal was very angry. He reported the matter to Shankar's father. His father was very upset. He told Shankar, "My son, what you have done is terribly wrong. If you apologise and plead with the principal he may forgive you and not dismiss you from school".

Shankar apologised to the principal the next day. The principal thought over the matter for a while. Since Shankar was a bright student and since this was the first time that he had committed theft, he pardoned Shankar. Shankar too realised that he should not crave for others' things. He turned over a new leaf.

**M. Shyam, Std. VI,
Bhaktavatsalam
Vidhyashram, Chennai.**



• V. Anand

Chess

India's grand-master, V. Anand, won the Plus GSM World Blitz chess cup at

Warsaw. He won the title by half a point.

Cricket

Indians have had a tough time this season in Australia. Despite putting up a good show they haven't been able to win many matches. To make

matters worse, India's ace batsman Sachin Tendulkar, was declared lbw in four matches. Umpiring down under has come in for comments from many



• Victimised?

quarters.

Meanwhile, before the triangular series, Pakistan made it clear that Sohaib Akhtar, the fastest pace bowler, must be included in the matches that Pakistan was to play. The ICC decided that Akhtar was fit to play in one-day internationals. He was barred from test matches.

Badmouthing is considered bad manners alright. But then is it

permitted on the field? One batsman was caught by the camera bad mouthing a bowler. Throwing the bat or using foul language on the field, expressing dissent on the field, insulting the umpire or players of the other team are all considered taboo.

Yet, while the Indians were bogged down by code of conduct, the same did not apply for the other team.

The much awaited India-Pakistan match did thrill the viewers. Almost till the last ball it appeared that India would win. Then the game turned on its head and went Pakistan's way.

HITS AND MISSES

Tennis

Leander Paes won three matches in three days to qualify for the Australian Open. Nirupama Vaidhyanathan twisted her ankle and had to abandon play. She won

the first set against Australia's Kerry Anne-Guse. The second set was won by the Australian. The third set stood at 1 - 1 when the game was abandoned.

• V. Nirupama



The rose garden lay directly between Rakesh's house and Shoba's house. Rakesh was Shoba's cousin. He was two years older than her. He studied in a different school. Whenever the rose garden was in full bloom, the gardener would stop Shoba and offer her a few flowers to take home.

The gardener, whose name Shoba learnt by and by, was Ramanlal. The flowers were fragrant during season. Quite a number of people would stand by and admire the flowers. Ramu kaka, as Ramanlal was known, sold the flowers at the flower market which was about 20 km from the garden.

Often the nearby temple would receive a basket of flowers. On special occasions Ramu kaka would be generous with flowers. Shoba and Rakesh were his best friends. That day just as Shoba passed by the garden she saw two men walking around the flower beds. "We must make the deal today. Else, the boss will get angry." She heard one of the men say.

She saw Ramu kaka far from the two men. Usually no visitors were allowed into the garden. So, how did Ramu kaka allow these two men? Shoba had little time to mull over this. She was going on a holiday and was expected to be away for a fortnight. She wanted to take leave of the gardener.

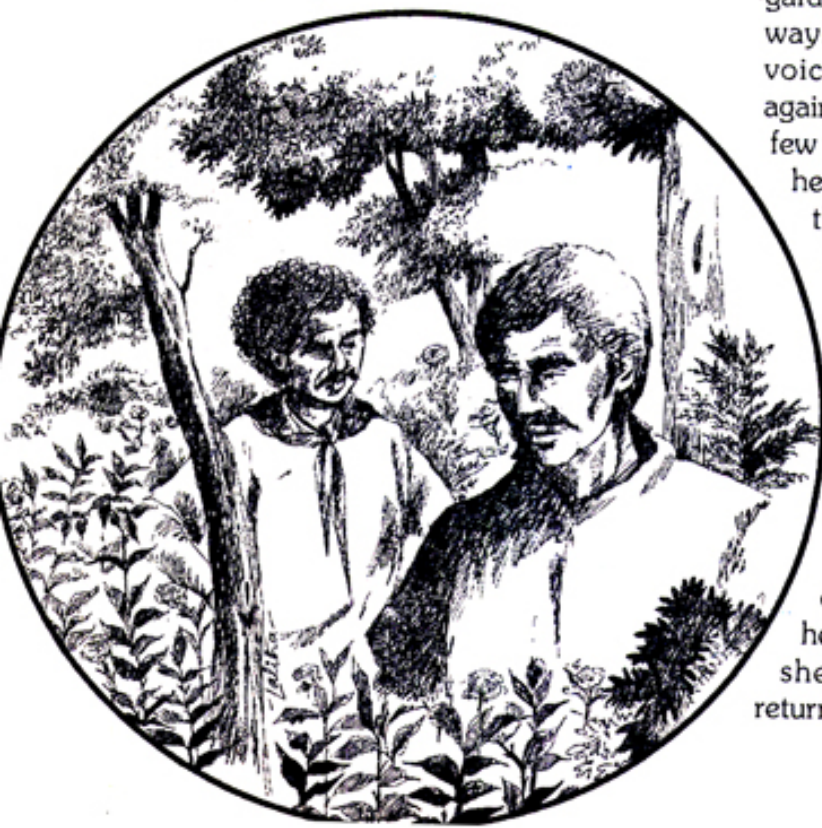
"Ramu kaka," she called out. Neither the men nor the

THE

gardener would look her way. She raised her voice and called out again. This time even a few passersby looked at her but nobody from the garden would acknowledge her presence.

Frustrated and confused, she called out to the two men, "Uncle, will you call Ramu kaka?"

But the men continued to ignore her. She knew that she would have to return home soon. Her



mother would get worried. So, without waiting to find out more, she ran down the lane.

A week into the holiday at her grandparents, Shoba's mother received a call from Rakesh's mother. Shoba did not know what Vinita aunty and mother talked. But, at the end of the conversation she heard mother ask, "That

their boss? Ramu kaka didn't seem like a murderer, even to her eyes. So.... if only she had spoken to Rakesh.



ROSE

Garden MYSTERY

old gardener of the rose garden? Impossible."

So, Shoba asked her mother, "What happened to Ramu kaka?"

Mother said, "He has been charged with murder."

Murder?

Shoba wondered whom he had murdered and why? She immediately recalled the two strange men among the flower beds. Could they be the ones Ramu kaka murdered? Or was it

The adults never allowed children to make long distance calls. She had a week to go before she could be back home. Then she wouldn't waste any time in finding out what had really happened.

The next week, they were back home. Shoba was waiting for a chance to visit the rose garden. When mother suggested that they go to Rakesh's house, she agreed to the idea. But, her mother suggested that they would ride the scooterette. Shoba's face fell. That meant that she could hardly

CONTEST FOR UNDER 16s: PART II OF THE STORY

Don't finish the story. This is a five part serial. Send in your entries (not above 350 words) before February 12, 2000. Send your entries to the address given at the bottom of this page. Include your name, age, name of school and house address. If even one of these details is not included, the entry will be rejected. The entry selected for publication will receive a prize.

Hints :

One of the constables at the police station near their home is helpful though otherwise he is strict with the children. Finish the second part with a punch. It should give a new twist and help to continue the story.

see the garden!

That evening they visited Vinita aunty. Mother and aunty began catching up on the latest news about the colony. Shoba waited for rose garden to crop up.

"Ramanlal, the gardener, was seen

shouting at two men. They were planning to buy the garden and construct a house. Ramanlal had no intention of selling it and the men got rough I believe. Ramanlal told the police that he shot the men through the head. Somehow the whole story doesn't fit into the puzzle. The two men are known rowdies of the city. Ramanlal has nothing to do with them. Also, he is not the kind of rouge he is now making himself out to be. The police recovered only some blood-stained shirts from his house.

"The police have placed him under custody. It is hard to believe that the gardener could have committed the twin murders."

When Rakesh returned from his cricket practice session Shoba accosted him.

"Why not we find out what really happened?"

Rakesh knew that Shoba was closer to the gardener than he was. Besides, he did not like Mukesh or Aravind who often bullied him. He decided that Shoba, Mukesh, Aravind and Sameera would join hands. Sameera was Aravind's sister. She had threatened to tell on them about the investigation if she was not included in the team.

Finally the boys had relented.

To continue

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Ans: A

Nalini : Your speech in the assembly was very informative.

Shalini : Was it? Thank you very much.

Nalini : Well, what did you speak about?

R. Sharada, Trichy.

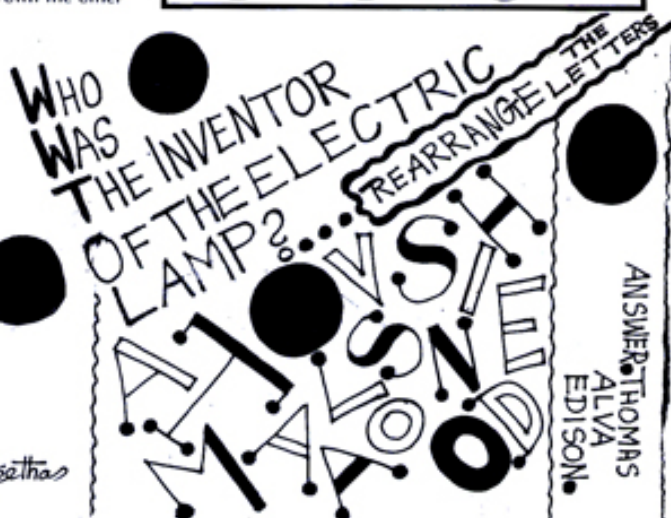
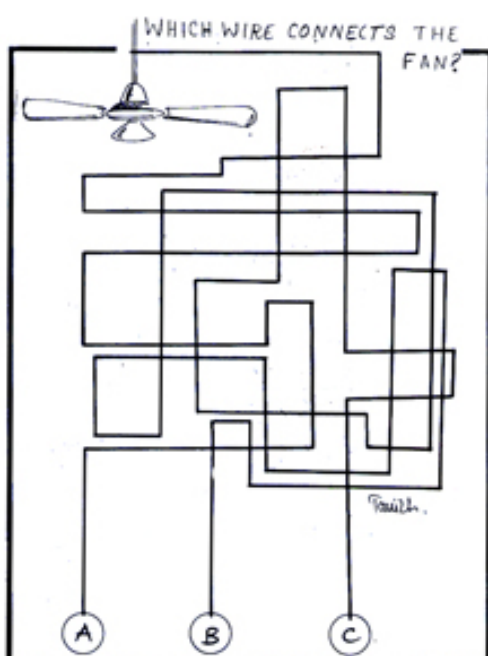
A neighbour threw a slipper at Ramesh's house when he began singing. So, Ramesh stopped singing.

"Why did you stop singing? you could have continued. The neighbour would have thrown the other slipper too! You could have had a pair of slippers!" scolded his wife.

Pallavi Prasad, age 14,
Nightingale School, Bangalore.



Geethas

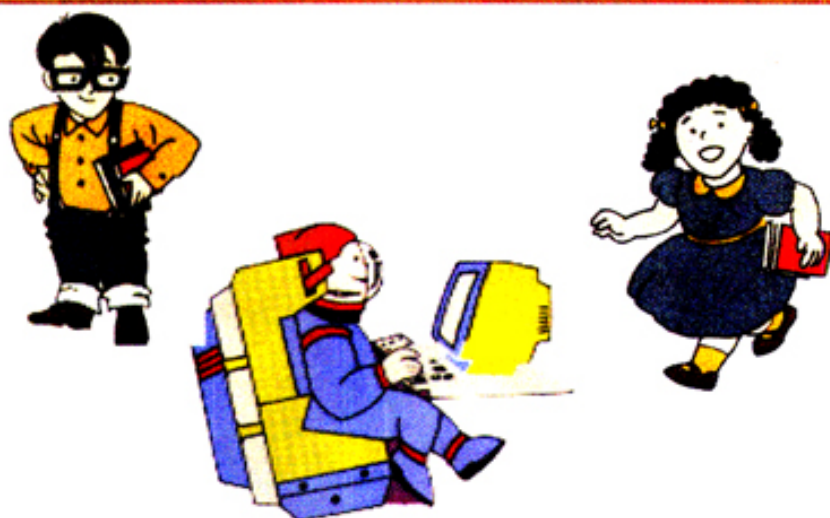


ANSWER: THOMAS
ALVA
EDISON.



FIND
OUT
HOW
MANY
BLADES
ARE
FEATURED
HERE.

Ans: 15



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